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Rival Mujahidin forces pound Afghan capital with shells and rockets

Rebels battle in Kabul streets

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN KABUL
AND ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN ISLAMABAD

KABUL was pounded by rocket and artillery fire yesterday as Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's fundamentalist forces launched a hopeless but devastating battle to seize the capital from rival Mujahidin fighters.

His heavily outnumbered men were beaten back in close-range gun battles throughout the city. By last night Mr Hekmatyar's men still held the interior ministry and other installations.

The forces headed by Ahmad Shah Masood held all other ministries and most other key installations, including the central armoury. The capital echoed all day with pounding guns and exploding shells landing in the heart of the town from positions to the south. Some of Mr Hekmatyar's men occupied hills overlooking the city. Others moved towards the presidential palace where they fought gun battles with fighters from Mr Masood's Jamiat-i-Islami party.

Mr Hekmatyar's artillery and mortar shells smashed into an outbuilding of the Bulgarian embassy, destroyed a university building and wrecked suburban houses. In the chaos it was impossible to assess the number of dead. Palls of smoke rose from every corner of the capital. While the battle raged the Mujahidin political parties based in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar dithered and squabbled as they did for nearly 14 years of war. They were meant to have sent a technical team by now to set up a council of Mujahidin commanders, politicians and intellectuals to fill the power vacuum, but there was no sign of them yesterday. Sibghatullah Mujahid, head of the 50-member interim conference announced by Afghan rebel leaders on Friday, postponed his departure



Grim advance: Mujahidin fighters advancing against rival fundamentalist guerrillas near the presidential palace in Kabul yesterday

10 Kabul, following Mr Hekmatyar's warning that the plane carrying him would be shot down.

Mr Mujahid, 65, leader of the moderate National Salvation Front, was scheduled to fly to Kabul by Pakistani air force plane yesterday to take over the government. Mujahidin sources in Peshawar said he would fly to Kabul soon but no date has yet been set. The Pakistani foreign ministry said that Pakistan would co-operate fully with the council. Leaders of

the ten Mujahidin groups had agreed on Friday to form an interim conference to replace the communist regime in Kabul. The interim council was to be replaced after two months by an interim government with Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiat-i-Islami, as president.

But the agreement fell apart after Mr Hekmatyar and an Iranian-based Shia group Hezb-Wahdat rejected it. The United Nations, whose belated decision to deal directly with the commanders

instead of the chaotic Peshawar groups has come to nothing, is scrambling to catch up with events.

Rival checkpoints made travel hazardous yesterday. A 3-2 victory over Sheffield Wednesday narrowly escaped injury when six bullets smashed through the back window of their taxi after they had driven through a rebel checkpoint. Another journalist's driver was shot in the hip.

Former President Najibullah's office was put on display to journalists. Mujahidin had torn the former puppet president's files and strewn them on the carpet. Desks were overturned. It was a display of anger more than looting.

Mr Hekmatyar issued a statement from his Peshawar office rejecting the latest peace plan put forward by the other six parties. He described the proposed ruling commission, which would have 50 members comprising 30 commanders, 10 politicians and 10 intellectuals, as redundant. In a radio message

from Afghanistan he said that he would soon announce his own government. He claimed that his forces had also arrested General Rashid Dostum, chief of the Uzbek militia allied to Mr Masood.

While the Peshawar parties debated and argued over details, Mr Masood took the initiative in a skilled operation that began late on Saturday morning.

Silent invasion, page 9
Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Russia angered by scale of Chernobyl cover-up

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY AND IGOR BARANOVSKY IN MOSCOW

SIX years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, shocking new facts have emerged about the scale and cynicism of the Soviet cover-up.

They show that the leaders of the country, including President Gorbachev, knowingly published false figures, which underestimated the number of casualties by 90 per cent, and permitted the distribution of large quantities of contaminated meat and milk across the country.

Shortly before this became public, the Russian government apparently felt secure enough, or desperate enough, to authorise the resumption of much of Russia's nuclear power programme, frozen after the Chernobyl inquiry. The decision, signed by Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, on March 26, has not yet been published. It requests the finance ministry to release funds for the construction, or reconstruction, of six power stations of the Chernobyl type. The building programme is to be continued, according to the media, despite evidence that the Chernobyl-type reactors are unsafe and cannot be improved by modification.

Details of the original Chernobyl cover-up were

published in *Izvestia* by Alla Yaroshinskaya, a Russian journalist, who saw all Chernobyl-related documents by virtue of her membership of a Soviet parliamentary committee investigating the aftermath of the disaster. All institutions co-operated with the investigation, except the Communist party's central committee, which refused to release minutes of the politburo's Chernobyl commission.

This was the group set up by President Gorbachev three days after the disaster and chaired by the then prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov.



Gorbachev: knowingly published false figures

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The minutes of the politburo commission show that the numbers were reduced by changing the definition of radiation sickness. On May 8, the permitted degree of exposure was raised "ten times, and in some cases 50 times. Thus, thousands of victims were children. Official figures given to the press two months later said that 197 people - all former staff at the plant - were suffering from "acute radiation sickness" of whom 28 had died.

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IMF ready, page 7

Leeds take league title

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

Leeds United have won the Football League for the first time since 1974, beating Manchester United to the championship after a race lasting for most of the season. A 3-2 victory over Sheffield United gave Leeds their triumph but it was not until hours later, that they knew they could not be caught.

Both teams have a match to play but Leeds are four points ahead. The Leeds game contained an own goal apiece, with Brian Gayle's header past his side's goalkeeper hitting Manchester United's chances of a first championship in 25 years..... Page 24

Mexico charges

The Mexican government announced criminal proceedings against nine officials of Pemex, the state oil company, and the Guadalajara city authority over the 190 deaths in last week's sewer system explosion..... Page 8

Labour dispute

Labour party officials were accused of trying to change the leadership election rules to ensure that Bryan Gould receives enough votes to force a contest..... Page 2

Building societies, including the top-performing Cheltenham & Gloucester, are facing legal action over their role in an investment scandal that has left thousands of people, mostly elderly, facing the loss of their homes.

Solicitors of those who have lost money on home income plans believe that court action

G7 clash over how to speed world economy

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY and Japan rejected US demands that they should do more to speed up the world economy as finance ministers from the world's seven richest nations (G7) gathered in Washington.

Before what promised to be an acrimonious series of meetings on the world economy and aid for Russia, Germany and Japan made it clear that they plan no changes in economic policy. Japan is also lukewarm about a \$24 billion (£14bn) package designed to stabilize the Russian economy. It is still in dispute over the return of Japanese islands seized by the former USSR at the end of the second world war.

Britain is expected to call for sweeping reforms to the Russian economy before the

aid package is settled. Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, said the Bundesbank had "no scope for a cut in interest rates". Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, said that Germany had already done its best to boost growth, with its trading partners enjoying much of the benefits from its large-scale transfers to eastern Germany.

The US treasury secretary, Nicholas Brady, hinted that Tokyo take further action to avert a threatened recession. But Tsutomu Hata, the Japanese finance minister, told Brady that Japan is set for a stronger economy this year with no additional measures.

It was said that many of the

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Lord St John, page 10

Germany firm, page 15
Comment, page 17

Home victims to sue

is the only way to win adequate compensation. The victims took out loans on their homes to provide extra income but their investments dropped in value while interest rates soared, leaving them with debt that can be met only by selling their homes.

Investment flop, page 5

Hooliganism blamed for nine Le Mans deaths

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON
IN PARIS

THE CITY of Le Mans yesterday counted the cost of a weekend that claimed the lives of nine motorcycle fans, including a Briton, and left more than 50 others injured.

A French government minister denounced the "hooliganism" that caused a series of fatal traffic accidents. The future of the Le Mans endurance race, which has become an annual pilgrimage for Europe's bikers attracting about 50,000 spectators every year, could be under threat. Improved security measures have failed to curb widespread drunkenness and the hazardous "rodeos" involving riders on powerful machines.

Hundreds of British motorcycle enthusiasts make the journey across the Channel to Le Mans each year.

Some go as spectators, but many go to test their daring and skill on the hairpin bends, at up to 170 mph.

According to the local police, Timothy Donaldson, 36, from Birmingham, was the first to die as he raced down a straight section of the course that is open to the public. He collided with a German rider, who was also killed. The six other victims are understood to have been French, while a dead man found close to the track but apparently not involved in any of the accidents has yet to be identified.

Speaking in Le Mans yesterday after hurrying to the scene, Georges Sarre, the transport minister, said he was "horrified" by what had taken place on Saturday night. "It seems to have been the result of too much beer, high speed and a type of delinquent competition," he said. His immediate objective was to organise the orderly departure of the tens of thousands of spectators. Robert Jarry, the mayor of Le Mans, agreed that heavy drinking and reckless driving were to blame for the worst tragedy in the history of the race.

Officials said that some fans had got out of control, staging impromptu races and risky displays of stunt riding. French television showed footage of bikers doing extravagant "wheelies", egged on by boisterous spectators, some of whom appeared drunk.

Stewart Glass, 22, a London despatch-rider who at the last minute decided not to attend Le Mans this year, said that for many motorcyclists the event was an opportunity for a weekend away, cheap beer and the chance to prove you can take bends at high speed and get away with it. People challenge each other and after a few beers believe they can do anything," he said.

Carl Fogarty and Terry Rymer, British, paired with the Belgian, Michel Simul, won the 24-hour race yesterday on a Kawasaki.

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Livingstone accuses party of stitch-up to force vote

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership election was thrown into further turmoil last night with allegations of a "stitch up" to ensure that Bryan Gould secured sufficient nominations to force a contest.

Confusion over a last-minute rule "clarification" is expected to be exploited at a meeting of the parliamentary Labour party this morning, although party officials will do their utmost to avoid an embarrassing debate.

The open dispute between candidates came as leaders of Britain's second largest union, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, stood by their decision not to hold a postal ballot, but promised the widest possible consultation.

Mr Gould, a contender for both the leadership and deputy, admitted in a television interview that he had contacted the party's organiser, Joyce Gould, last Wednesday to help his chances of securing enough support by Tuesday's deadline to challenge John Smith, the front runner. As a result, Ms Gould sent a letter to candidates outlining a rule change to allow second preferences, which the party was then forced to retract on Saturday because it was unconstitutional.

Over the weekend, party officials were briefing journalists to "clarify" the rule. Party sources said yesterday that candidates would be able to withdraw a nomination and replace it with another if they felt their first choice was unlikely to get enough support to enter the contest. Under party rules, each candidate has to secure 55 nominations, 20 per cent of

Labour MPs to compete. Ken Livingstone, the third Leadership candidate, who is unlikely to get enough nominations to enter the contest, accused party officials of engineering "the stitch up of all time", and creating unnecessary confusion.

"Clear evidence has now emerged that party officials and possibly MPs have acted in a way which favours the attempt to get some candidates on to the ballot paper for the leadership while keeping others off."

Mr Livingstone claims he has support from about 28 MPs while Mr Gould has about 50. Mr Livingstone is convinced that both Mr Smith and Mr Gould's camps are trying to squeeze his vote to ensure sufficient support for Mr Gould.

There was still confusion last night over how MPs would know if the candidate they had nominated had secured enough MPs.

Both Mr Livingstone and John Prescott, who is bidding for the deputy leadership, were furious that Ms Gould had appeared to change the rules on Friday, without consulting any of the candidates apart from Mr Gould.

It is understood that the party's general secretary, Larry Whitty, was contacted by Ms Gould but they did not discuss the exact wording of her letter which said that MPs could submit a duplicate nomination allowing them to state a second preference for both the leadership and the deputy leadership.

After hurried telephone calls between Mr Whitty, Neil Kinnock's office, Ms Gould, David Hill, communications director, and John Evans, the party chairman, the second version was put out.

Party officials are expected to confirm this line before the parliamentary Labour party meets tomorrow and then present it to the PLP as a fait accompli.

Speaking on the *Walder* programme, Mr Gould said he was confident that he would get the 55 nominations for both leader and deputy. There was a lot of telephoning and "in some circumstances arm-twisting going on".

Diary, page 10



Degree of dissent: the women students of Somerville College, Oxford, met last night to plan the latest stage in their campaign to prevent the ending of single-sex education.

which has continued there for 113 years. Somerville's governing body announced in February that it would permit applications from men next year. The decision has

been vigorously opposed by students — including, left to right, Helen Rogers, Sue Parker, Katie Baxendale and Alice Walton — and distinguished graduates of the college such as Margaret Thatcher and Shirley Williams. The main subject on the agenda last night was whether to take proposed legal action to overturn the decision to admit men.

Scientists challenge Aids link to HIV

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A GROUP of doctors and scientists dissatisfied with existing theories on the causes of Aids is to hold an "alternative" Aids symposium in Holland next month.

Professor Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, the discoverer of the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) which is generally believed to cause Aids, is among those expected to attend, with others whose opposition to the HIV theory of Aids is already known. Professor Montagnier's presence is likely to give a higher profile to a campaign over Aids which has been largely ignored or dismissed by mainstream medical opinion.

Some critics, such as Professor Peter Duesberg of the University of California at Berkeley, say that HIV is not the main cause of Aids. They blame the disease's symptoms on other factors, such as drug-taking, which damage the immune system. Professor Duesberg's views have been dismissed by most researchers, but are now being championed by a new international body, the Group for the Scientific Reappraisal of the HIV/Aids Hypothesis. The editor of the group's newsletter, Dr Harvey Bialy,

says the virus theory of Aids "has produced nothing". Outside a small and vocal minority, however, few specialists doubt that there is a strong connection between HIV and Aids. Where there is room for argument is over the degree to which HIV can be identified as the single cause of the disease.

The evidence shows clearly that Aids can be transmitted by HIV alone. The issue raised by Professor Montagnier is whether every case is caused in this way, and whether other factors may in some cases be equally or more important. He points out that

people infected with the virus normally do not develop the disease for several years, and suggests that some may never do so. Other critics go further, claiming that Aids is a consequence of damage to the immune system by drug taking, malnutrition, or other infections, and that many of the supposed symptoms of the disease are due to the toxic effects of the drugs used to treat it. This extreme position is dismissed by most Aids experts.

They point out that many of those who have died from Aids have no link with drug taking. The only common

factor, for example, between haemophiliacs who have suffered the disease for several years, and suggests that some may never do so. Other critics go further, claiming that Aids is a consequence of damage to the immune system by drug taking, malnutrition, or other infections, and that many of the supposed symptoms of the disease are due to the toxic effects of the drugs used to treat it. This extreme position is dismissed by most Aids experts.

They point out that many of those who have died from Aids have no link with drug taking. The only common

Aids-like symptoms without the involvement of HIV. The point is that such cases do not constitute an epidemic, while Aids does.

The serious scientific argument about HIV is how precisely it functions. The fact that the progression from HIV to Aids is unpredictable suggests to Professor Montagnier that it happens only when other "co-factors" are present. He believes that HIV and the co-factors conspire to undermine the immune system by reprogramming the immune cells.

This does not mean that HIV is the only cause of immune system failure. There will always be some people whose immune systems fail and who die from

self-destruct, leaving the patient defenceless.

If proved correct, Professor Montagnier's theories will have implications for Aids treatment. The use of a vaccine as a therapeutic measure may, he thinks, stimulate the very process it was meant to control. He suggests that it may be better to protect HIV-infected people with antibiotics to control the co-factors, which are assumed to be micro-organisms of some sort. Dietary advice and vitamin supplements could also be valuable.

Broadcasters shun drug theory

BROADCASTERS, with the notable exception of Channel 4, have shied away from reporting Professor Peter Duesberg's controversial views about the cause of Aids (Melinda Wintock writes).

Channel 4's *Dispatches*, which has broadcast two documentaries articulating the views of Prof Duesberg, has been criticised by the Terence Higgins Trust and other Aids organisations, as well as Wellcome, the drug com-

pany that manufactures AZT. A year ago, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission upheld a complaint against the *Dispatches* programme. *The Aids Catch*, a follow-up to *Aids: The Unheard Voices*.

The Terence Higgins Trust, Frondlers and Positively Women complained that the programme had been "unfair to the subject of Aids", while Wellcome said it had been one-sided and unbalanced.

The Commission ruled that the programme "did not give the ordinary viewer the basis for forming a judgment about the controversial arguments put forward".

But Channel 4 and the programme's producer, Joan Shenton, argued that the majority of Aids programmes had put the majority view that HIV was the direct cause of Aids, and that *The Aids Catch* had added to, and balanced, the debate.

Deluge fails to dampen referendum rally

By KERRY GILL

"GOD must be a Tory," said a steward last night at the second demonstration held by Scotland United, the movement formed after the general election to fight for a referendum on Scotland's future constitution.

He might have been right. As the crowds gathered in George Square, Glasgow, the skies blackened, lightning flashed, thunder clapped and the 2,500 demonstrators were caught in a deluge. George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow, Hillhead,

one of the original organisers of Scotland United, said the movement's strategy was to build grass-roots support before inviting the party leaders to address rallies that would be held up to St Andrew's Day, the deadline Scotland United has given the government to hold a multi-option referendum.

The movement is supposed to be cross-party but the organisers tend to be from the Labour party while the majority of supporters appear to be from the nationalists.

Many in the crowd were waving SNP banners. Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, sent a message of support in which he called on the people of Scotland to support a popular referendum. Fiona Hyslop, of the SNP, told the gathering that the demonstrators had gathered for social and economic freedom from Westminster.

Morna Craig, of the Liberal Democrats, said: "We are here to demonstrate the strength of our intentions

and width of our support." Mr Galloway will today call on his party to back a series of by-elections throughout Scotland held every month until the Tories allow a referendum. His plan is that every sitting MP in favour of home rule should stand down and then stand as a home rule candidate.

However, his idea will need the support not only of fellow Labour MPs but of the nationalists and the Liberal Democrats. It would doubtless be ignored by the Tories.

Ramblers 'have to trespass'

By RONALD FAUX

TRESPASS remains a weapon ramblers must expect to use in the campaign for the right to roam across closed countryside. Chris Hall, president of the Ramblers' Association, said yesterday at its annual congress in Blackpool.

Many old people are being

neglected and are suffering pain and distress because they are placed in homes that cannot meet their need for nursing care, according to a new survey. The college says. For the survey, *A Scandal Waiting To Happen*, the college consulted 233 nurses in residential and nursing homes and found that half thought their residents were placed in the wrong kind of home.

Old people in ordinary

houses who suffered from bed sores or incontinence often received inappropriate help because nurses were not available, the survey found. There were "numerous examples" of people denied skilled nursing care when they were dying.

Launching the survey yesterday, Christine Hancock, general secretary of the college,

Nurses want enquiry into care of elderly

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL enquiry into the needs of elderly people in residential homes must be established to avoid "a scandal", the Royal College of Nursing said yesterday at its annual congress in Blackpool.

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neglected and are suffering pain and distress because they are placed in homes that cannot meet their need for nursing care, according to a new survey. The college says. For the survey, *A Scandal Waiting To Happen*, the college consulted 233 nurses in residential and nursing homes and found that half thought their residents were placed in the wrong kind of home.

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houses who suffered from bed sores or incontinence often received inappropriate help because nurses were not available, the survey found. There were "numerous examples" of people denied skilled nursing care when they were dying.

Launching the survey yesterday, Christine Hancock, general secretary of the college,

said that old people were being wrongly placed or their need for greater care was going unnoticed as they became more infirm. "We need an in-depth look, lasting maybe three months, to see what is happening."

The survey, to be presented

to Virginia Bottomley, the new health secretary, when she addresses the congress today, shows also that 40 per cent of nurses working in nursing homes said that many residents did not need the high level of care provided. Some said fit and active residents were being accepted to lighten the workload or to save the bother of moving them when they became more dependent.

Ms Hancock refused to say whether she favoured a slowdown in the pace of health service reforms. "We would like the changes to be properly evaluated," she said.

The congress, attended by representatives of Britain's 450,000 nurses, will consider calls for a campaign for the government to establish a formula to guarantee an adequate level of NHS funding.

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Open locks leave village awash

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

PARTS of a Wiltshire village were under three feet of water yesterday after the crew of a pleasure boat left two sets of lock gates unsecured on the Kennet and Avon canal, an 87-mile waterway that links the Avon with the Thames.

The canal burst its banks near the village of Seend Cleeve after water several miles upstream cascaded through lock gates that should have been securely shut to hold it back. Roads, fields and gardens were flooded as water gushed

through the tiny village. Drivers on one minor road were confronted with several feet of water.

The pleasure boat was heading downstream and was about two miles away from the Caen Hill flight of 29 locks near Devizes when its crew accidentally left open part of the lock's mechanism that controls the flow of water.

A spokesman for Wiltshire police said: "This caused the water to overflow over the side of the lock and there was an initial rush of water which

affected a minor road in the village for a time." He said the water level had dropped quickly but not before several gardens in the area had also been flooded.

Lorna Hillier, who lives close to the canal, called the police early yesterday morning when she saw "monstrous amounts of water cascading down the road". She said: "There was water everywhere, several feet deep. The road was awash and fields and gardens were flooded. It has wrecked my neighbour's garden."

Sir Leon to unveil car price survey

Sir Leon Brittan, EC competition commissioner, will this week make public the findings of his long-awaited report on car prices across the European Community.

As expected, the Brussels report found big differences in car prices across the EC, far higher than those allowed under EC law, with British and Spanish consumers especially suffering at the hands of an industry that has a "block exemption" from normal EC competition rules.

During the first quarter of 1991, five leading European car groups had price differentials of more than 40 per cent on some of their models across the EC market. On some Ford models it was as high as 84 per cent. For Japanese cars, restricted by some EC countries almost to the point of exclusion, price differentials of as much as 103 percent were recorded.

Of 21 models compared, 12 were most expensive in Spain, two in France, one in Germany and six in Britain: the Fiat Uno 70SX, Citroen AX TRE 1.1, Astra LS 1.4, Volkswagen Golf 1.6, BMW 316i 1.6 and the Peugeot 405 GR1.9.

The report comes before the 17-member commission for approval on Wednesday. Sir Leon will recommend that car makers make clear to their dealers that unless they keep price differentials down to 12 per cent over sustained periods, with a maximum divergence to 18 per cent at any given moment, the block exemption for the industry will not be renewed when it comes up for review in 1995.

Workers sue over late pay

A council that lost more than £6 million in the BCCI crash is facing High Court action for trying to delay its workers' pay days. Bury council, in Greater Manchester, wants to switch salary payments from the middle of the month to the end, saving the council £365,000.

Workers say the change will mean them paying twice for essential repayments from one pay packet. Sue Duggan, a social worker, has issued a writ against the council and will be seeking an injunction against the pay delay in the High Court on Wednesday.

M15 opposed

Sir Peter Imbert, Metropolitan Police commissioner, is expected to meet Kenneth Clarke, the new home secretary, this week to press the police case for the Yard's special branch retain control of all terrorist intelligence material in mainland Britain and to reject Home Office proposals to put M15 in charge. Sir Peter and other chief constables say M15 has no public accountability and no experience in Britain.

Footpath fight

The Countryside Commission launched its scheme to encourage local people to look after England's 120,000 miles of public rights of way yesterday at the National Association of Local Councils' conference in Southport, Merseyside. The commission wants to ensure that the entire network of public paths is legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised by 2000.

Policeman hurt

A policeman was seriously injured early yesterday morning when his panda car crashed into a street sign in Woking, Surrey. Constable Richard Styles, based at Woking, was answering a 999 call after youths had been reported causing criminal damage. He was said last night to be in a very critical condition with head injuries in the Atkinson Morley hospital, Wimbledon.

Safe rigs urged

North Sea oil companies should be obliged by law to consult their workforce about safety on every offshore installation, according to a Trades Union Congress paper published today. It also emphasises the need for uniform standards and government funds to meet safety needs. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "Workers' expertise is too valuable to be overlooked."

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Heads fear selection proposal will lead to two-tier system

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

PLANS before the education secretary to make an opt-out comprehensive school in West Yorkshire selective may signal a return to grammar schools and a two-tier education system, head teachers and council officials have said.

Castle Hall school in Mirfield, which has 567 pupils, may become the first opt-out school to change its character by becoming selective, and has also applied to change its age range from 9-13 to 11-18. Kenneth Clarke, former education secretary, was said to be in favour of its application, which will be high on the agenda of John Patten, his successor.

Gavin Tonkin, schools dev-

elopment manager for Kirklees local authority, said the prospect of a gradual return to selectivity was causing anxiety.

"The concern is that if you have one school becoming selective, the others will too. This shows that a school can opt out in one guise and change its admissions procedures as it pleases."

The wider community had not been consulted on a policy that would have an impact on all schools, he said.

The local authority is streamlining its own provision in Mirfield, reducing seven first schools, two middle schools and a high school to five primary schools and a secondary school. Martin

Brewis, head teacher of Mirfield high school, said that the creation of another secondary school that was selective would undermine this reorganisation. Other schools might be forced to opt out and seek a change of character to prevent the emergence of a two-tier system.

"Selection is likely to increase significantly but I am not sure too many people here would welcome it," he said.

Bronwen Bentall, chairman of the governors at Castle Hall, said selection would be used only in the event of over-subscription.

"There would be testing on all the usual skills. We did consult our parents, 99 per cent supported the change," she said.

The application to change character had been a reaction to the local authority's own overhaul rather than an attempt to steal good pupils and funds from schools such as Mirfield high, Mrs Bentall said.

Bob Balchin, chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, said he would visit Castle Hall soon to discuss its case.

The education department said that the school's application was being considered. "The school obviously can't survive as a middle school, because of the local authority changes. As to becoming selective, that's a matter for ministers to decide," a spokesman said.

● Local authorities must review the potentially radical implications of opting out as a matter of urgency, says a briefing paper to be sent out next week. *The Times* has a draft copy of the report, by the advisory group Local Schools Information, which warns schools not to adopt the "tempering approach" to opting out and to consider the services they may lose if LEAs withdraw.

Leading article, page 11
Education
L&T section, page 7

Wandsworth looks at return of grammars

BY OUR EDUCATION REPORTER

CASTLE Hall School and Avon Valley High School in Rugby, Warwickshire, both of which are seeking permission to change their admissions procedures, are expected to set a trend among opt-out schools.

Moves toward selectivity, however, will not be confined to the grant-maintained sector. Wandsworth council in southwest London, often regarded as the laboratory of the government's reforms, will next week consider plans to make all its secondary schools selective.

The government's opt-out policy has been widely criticised as concealing the wish to return to selective secondary education, but in Wandsworth it is the local authority that is initiating the return, which it claims will stimulate educational diversity and minimise bureaucratic intervention in schools.

Donald Naismith, director

of education, said yesterday that all schools would be encouraged to become "centres of excellence" specialising in a particular group of disciplines such as modern languages, media studies and communications.

"We would want to explore what would be called, in short-hand terms, grammar schools — although I'm unhappy with that term because it implies the existence of secondary moderns," he said.

The council has promised to provide a safety net for those pupils unable to secure places in these schools on the basis of their aptitude.

Mr Naismith said the borough's three opt-out schools had failed to extend parental choice. "They have said that they want to be neighbourhood comprehensive schools. But there is no point in schools opting out if they're going to stay exactly the same," he said.

Donald Naismith, director

Girl dies after sniffing session

A GIRL aged 13 was recovering in hospital yesterday after a suspected aerosol sniffing session in which her friend died.

The girl is being treated in the coronary care unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, where her condition was said to be satisfactory. She is expected to leave hospital in a few days.

Police named the girl last night as Teresa Bourner, of

Hilsea, Portsmouth. Her friend, Rachel Wheatcroft, 14, from Stanshaw, Portsmouth, was found dead by police at a flat in the city's North End on Friday night. Police believe the girls had been inhaling an aerosol can containing fabric freshener.

A spokesman for Hampshire police said it was unlikely there would be any charges.

The dead girl's father, Thomas Wheatcroft, 73, was recovering from an operation

at Queen Alexandra Hospital when ambulance men brought in his daughter's body. He said: "I was in bed recovering from the stitches when they came in and told me, 'Rachel was a wonderful girl. Everyone who knew her loved her.'

Rachel's mother Carol, 41, said: "She never stayed out late. I keep thinking she will come back in a minute."

An inquest into Rachel's death is expected to open this week.

Lord Hanson's Spreadsheet?

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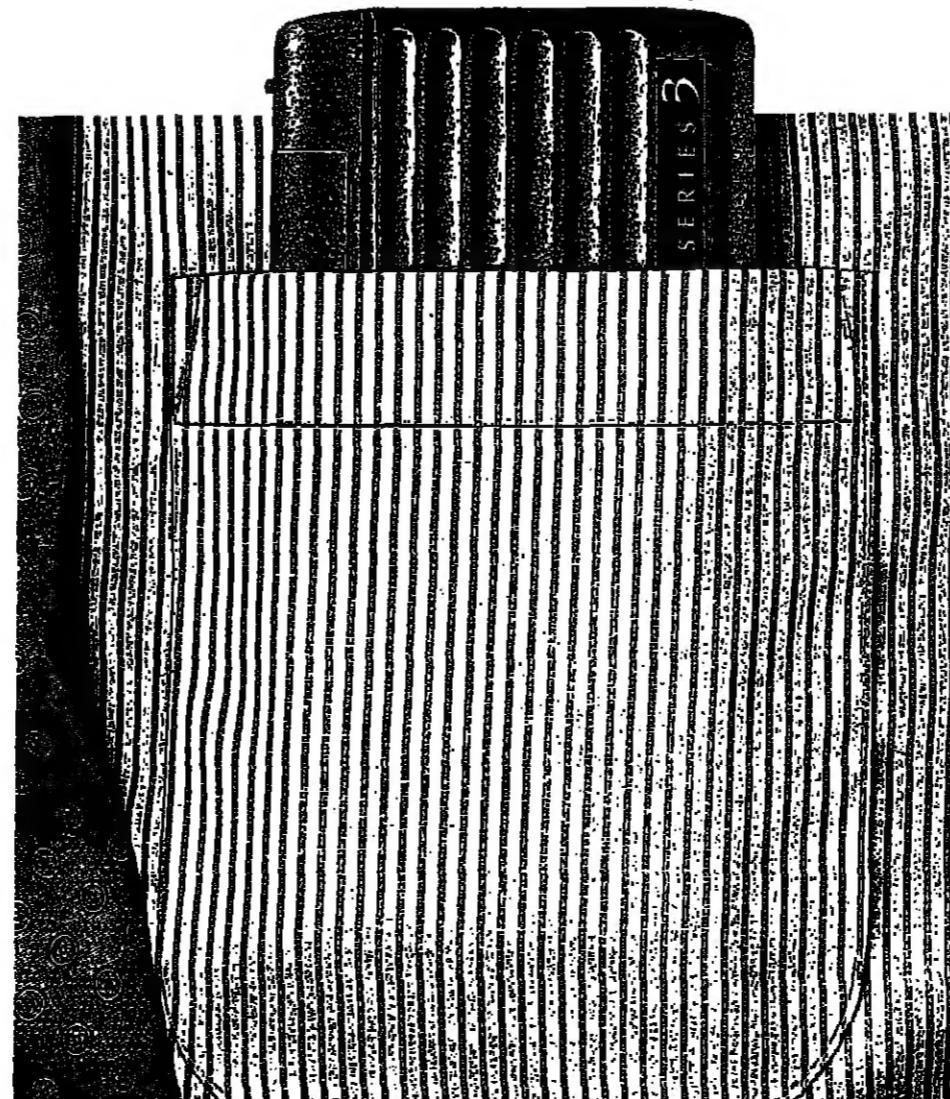
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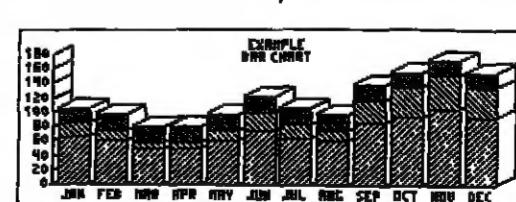
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Silcott to challenge second conviction

BY ALISON ROBERTS

NEW evidence is to be presented in a petition asking the Home Secretary to reopen the case of Winston Silcott, who is serving life sentence for the murder of a 22-year-old boxer.

Last year the Court of Appeal cleared Silcott of the murder of PC Keith Blakelock, who was killed during the Broadwater Farm riots in Tottenham. Silcott remains in jail for the murder of Anthony Smith, who died of stab wounds in 1984.

A book published today claims that Silcott acted in self-defence during a brawl with Smith at a party and it contains statements from new witnesses who did not appear at his trial. It says that Silcott was advised against using that defence in court.

The book, *A Climate of Fear*, by the journalist David Rose, contains details of the new investigation carried out by himself and Andrew Hall, a barrister and formerly Silcott's solicitor. Mr Hall said: "There has quite clearly been a miscarriage of justice. Justice demands that this case be reopened."

The new witnesses claim that Smith and his gang were out to get Silcott and provoked the fight at a party in Hackney which resulted in Smith's death in hospital two weeks later. Silcott was on bail at the time of the Tottenham riots in October 1985.

School arson

Arson was blamed last night for a fire that destroyed a primary school in Nottingham. The blaze broke out on Saturday night at the Jessie Boot Primary School in Bakersfield. Police said there was evidence of a break-in.

Bird stranded

A rare seabird looks set to stay in Britain because it cannot get home. The ancient murrelet was blown from northwest America to Lundy in the Bristol Channel, where it has been spotted for the third year running.

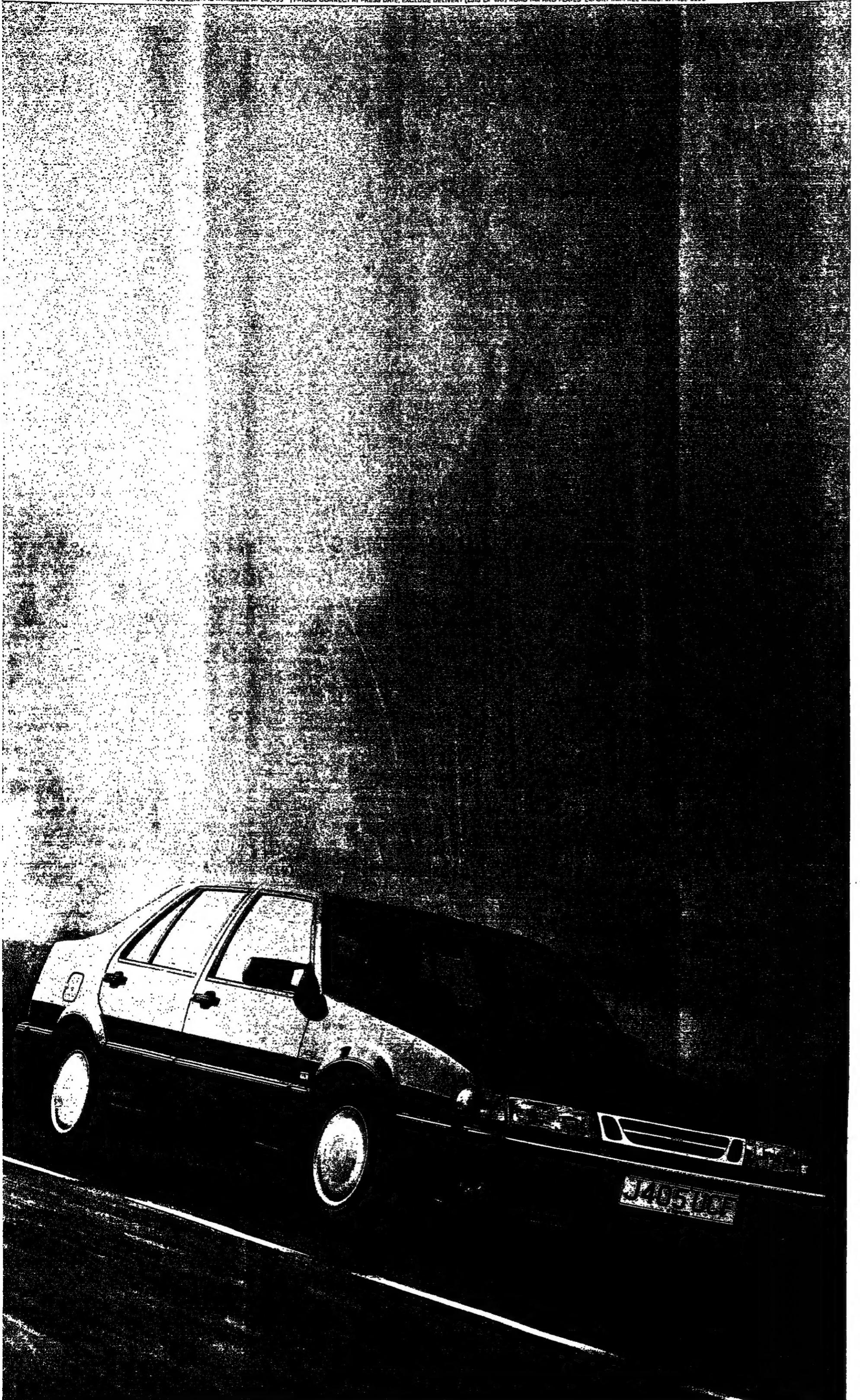
7 questioned

Police were questioning five boys and two girls last night over the death of a man, aged about 50, found battered in his flat in Darlington, co. Durham. He died of a head injury, apparently after challenging burglars.

Passengers die

A man 19 was being questioned by police in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, yesterday after his car smashed into a lamp-post, killing two 17-year-old female passengers. The driver was unhurt. Two other passengers had minor injuries.

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THOUSANDS of middle-class people who are faced with the loss of their homes because of an investment scandal are planning to sue building societies over their role in the disaster.

Solicitors representing tens of thousands of people who have taken out loans and are preparing to seek compensation from societies, including Cheltenham & Gloucester, Britain's sixth largest and the West Bromwich, which provided loans, for plans.

Andrew Langham, C&G's £300,000-a-year executive, and fellow directors, face a demand from pensioners at the society's annual meeting on Tuesday. They claim C&G actively recruited customers to take out loans with a firm of financiers which subsequently became bankrupt, and they have neither organisation quizzed or explained the investments collapse.

The plans encourage people to use part of the value of their homes to loans, which was then invested in bonds to provide

Entirely because

AN ADVERTISEMENT asking "Why not use your home to give you an inheritance?" Gerald and Mrs Beaumont of Kent, Warwickshire, in a home plan.

"It seems an idea at the time for a

Direct style a

FOUR of the main financial advisers who advised home owners to take out loans have folded, leaving it to seek redress either in the courts or a compensation scheme (Tony Dawe).

The most active in the Fisher Prew-Smith group, Merseyside, was up last September. Investors worry about homes, its directors in style. Paul Prew-Smith, £700,000 Spanish v Peter Fisher in a court house in Southport.

Most of the loans are the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society, with plans arranged by Associates of Bromley run by Carol Wilk



Fisher: comfort house in South

TUSSAUDS
to fight park plan

BY CRAIG SAYER
THE Tussauds Group owns Warwick Castle, which is to be sold to a private developer for a £40 million development of land overlooking the castle.

Tussauds told a enquiry last October accepted in principle proposed leisure park, believing it could enhance the historic 690-acre site to be restored.

The enquiry is expected to be decided by Michael Howard, the new environment minister, for a decision. The Group has now written to him to say that as it is to secure a binding agreement with David Ward, the proposed developer, to safeguard the land, the scheme will be refused planning permission.

The historic park, designed by C. Brown, was farmed by Newing Ward, three years ago for £5 million.

John Morley, of phone and Wright, behalf of the developer Tussauds and Mr. Ward, were not available in their views.

Investment flop victims determined to sue

THOUSANDS of mostly elderly people who are threatened with the loss of their homes because of an investment scandal are planning to sue building societies over their role in the disaster.

Solicitors representing victims of home income plans have taken counsel's advice and are preparing legal action to seek compensation from societies, including the Cheltenham & Gloucester, Britain's sixth largest, and the West Bromwich, which provided loans for 2,000 plans.

Andrew Longhurst, the C&G's £300,000-a-year chief executive, and fellow directors, face a demonstration from pensioners at the society's annual meeting on Wednesday. They claim that the C&G actively recommended customers to take out plans with a firm of financial advisers which subsequently went bankrupt, and they say that neither organisation adequately explained the risks of the investments collapsing.

The plans encouraged people to use part of the equity of their homes to obtain loans, which was then invested in bonds to provide an

income and enough funds to pay off the loan. But in a difficult market, the bonds dropped in value and failed to produce adequate income, while interest rates rose leaving investors with debts that could only be met by selling their homes.

Two investors, Cyril Whitta of Corby, Northants, and Les Steer of Paignton, Devon, were said by their families to have been driven to suicide by despair over the debts. Support groups have been formed throughout Britain to help the victims who, according to Age Concern, could total 10,000.

Many investors' debts have mounted without taking a penny in income. Gerald Beaumont, 63, and his wife, Margaret, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, took out a £55,000 loan three years ago to boost his future pension. He now owes £73,000 and has seen the value of his investment cut by a third.

Vera Hawkins and her husband Basil, both in their seventies, of Hayes, Kent, obtained a £50,000 mortgage from C&G in 1987 to buy investments which could be left

Up to 10,000 elderly people, some facing the loss of their homes, are demanding compensation from building societies after losing fortunes in home income schemes. **Tony Dawe** reports

to their three grandchildren. The investment is now worth £14,942 and the mortgage has increased to nearly £60,000 with rolled-up interest charges.

"Nobody should think they were naive or feel guilty," Mrs Hawkins said. "The ones who should feel guilty are the brokers and building societies. They didn't meet their responsibilities and warn everyone of the extent of possible losses if things went wrong."

Gordon and Peggy Bryant, also in their seventies, of Bromley, Kent, went to C&G to discuss a loan but were recommended to visit Aylesbury Associates, which arranged a home income plan and promised a return of 15-25 per cent on their investment. The company is now in liquidation, the Bryant's investment has dropped in value while interest on their loan has rolled up by £10,000.

These couples are among the 400 clients of Barnett Sampson, solicitors in the West End of London, who are seeking to take the building societies to court. "The majority are in dire straits and terribly worried," Richard Barnett said. "These plans were sold heavily in 1989 and 1990 when building societies had a lot of money and were

looking for new markets. They must be held liable."

Even Godfrey Jilings, chief executive of Fimbra, which regulates financial advisers and brokers and is trying to sort out the mess, said: "The building societies should have satisfied themselves that the plans were viable. There was undoubtedly some irresponsible lending. Now everyone is running for cover and no one wants to take responsibility."

Obtaining compensation for the victims is clouded by the number of different bodies involved in home income plans: financial advisers who sold them; building societies which provided the loans; solicitors who did the conveying; insurance companies which financed the bonds; and regulatory authorities such as Fimbra which have been accused of acting too slowly to stop them.

Fimbra does run a consumer arbitration scheme which can rule on investors' claims against financial advisers. Since the main firms which sold the plans have gone into liquidation, the victims must now turn to the Investors' Compensation Scheme, which can pay out a maximum of £48,000 on each claim but has its disadvantages.

The scheme only covers losses on investments taken out after August 1988 and once the financial adviser has defaulted. A spokeswoman also pointed out that because of the role of some building societies and solicitors in pushing specific plans, the scheme might not pay out the full amount of a claim but would hold some back while it sought funds from others who could share the blame.

"It is with these complications in mind that we believe the best way to seek redress for the victims is through the courts," Mr Barnett said. The building societies insist that legal action will delay their own attempts to resolve the crisis without repossessing any homes. The West Bromwich said that a team of counsellors is helping borrowers with financial worries and the C&G is expected to pre-empt Wednesday's pensioner protest and the resultant media coverage by announcing "an arrangement" to help some of its borrowers.



Longhurst: target for pensioners' protests



Heavy debts: the Beaumonts' retirement plan went disastrously wrong

Enticing advertisement became financial snare

BY TONY DAWE

AN ADVERTISEMENT asking "Why not use your home to give you an income?" ensnared Gerald and Margaret Beaumont of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, in a home-income plan.

"It seemed an excellent idea at the time for we were

planning for our retirement and wanted to boost my meagre pension," Mr Beaumont, who is now 63, said. They were visited by a salesman from Fisher Prew-Smith, financial advisers of Southport, Merseyside, who arranged three years ago for

Directors living in style as clients fret

FOUR of the main firms of financial advisers which provided home income plans have folded, leaving investors to seek redress either through the courts or a compensation scheme (Tony Dawe writes).

The most active in the field, Fisher Prew-Smith, of Southport, Merseyside, was wound up last September. While its investors worry about their homes, its directors are living in style. Paul Prew-Smith in a £700-a-week Spanish villa and Peter Fisher in a comfortable house in Southport.

Most of the loans made by the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society were for plans arranged by Aylesbury Associates of Bromley, Kent, run by Carol Wilkins and

John Doerr, which also went bankrupt last year.

Some of their business was then taken over by Ruben Walter Investment Management, of Bristol, which invested the funds, in some cases several times. It has also gone into liquidation.

The fourth firm to fail was Essex-based Acorn Insurance and Mortgage Consultants. Among other companies which sold the plans was Sandy Park Financial Services, of Bournemouth, Hants, run by Sonja Thompson. One client for whom she arranged home income plans was Les Steer, of Paignton, Devon, whose widow Dorothy says his debts led him to commit suicide.

Fisher Prew-Smith is now in liquidation. John Milton, general manager of National Counties, said: "We have not at any stage marketed these products and relied on properly registered financial intermediaries to present cases for loans to us. We are, however, trying to assist borrowers who are in difficulties and encouraging them to take action through compensation schemes to recover their position."

Fisher: comfortable house in Southport

Thompson: one of her clients killed himself

Tussauds to fight park plan

BY CRAIG SETON

THE Tussauds Group, which owns Warwick Castle, has decided to urge the environment secretary to reject plans for a £40 million hotel and golf development on parkland overlooked by the historic building.

Tussauds told a public enquiry last October that it accepted in principle the proposed leisure project, believing it could enable the historic 690-acre landscape to be restored.

The enquiry inspector's report is believed to be on the desk of Michael Howard, the new environment secretary, for a decision. The Tussauds Group has now written to him to say that it has failed to secure a binding agreement with David Newling Ward, the proposed developer, to safeguard the future of the land, the scheme should be refused planning consent.

The historic parkland, part-designed by Capability Brown, was farmed until Mr Newling Ward bought it over three years ago for an estimated £5 million.

John Morley, of Corstorphine and Wright, said on behalf of the developer that Tussauds and Mr Newling Ward were not worlds apart in their views.

Turbine will harness power of neglected waterways

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of artists and scientists hopes to transform the fortunes of the neglected river Wandle, a tributary of the Thames and once one of the most economically important waterways in the world, by generating electricity from one of its weirs.

The scheme, proposed by Platform, an environmental group, is part of a wider initiative to raise awareness of Britain's forgotten waterways through exhibitions, plays and water power schemes.

Initially four rivers, the Fleet, Effra, Wandle and Walbrook, are being used in the Still Waters campaign. Three of them are almost invisible because vast sections run under streets and buildings.

James Marriott, a co-ordinator of the scheme, said the Lower Wandle was reputedly the hardest worked river in the world, used to grind corn, tan leather, roll copper, pound iron and provide power to the City of London.

The weir power plant is planned near the river's mouth in Wandsworth. Stephen Fisher, an expert on micro-hydroelectric schemes at Intermediate Technology, a charity based in Rugby, Leicestershire, has been carrying out evaluation of the site. The Wandle project is in-

tended mainly to raise environmental awareness but the prospect of commercial weir power schemes connected to the national grid popping up across the country on canals and rivers could soon be a reality.

Engineers at IT Power of Eversley, Hampshire, are close to developing a new turbine that could make small weir-power stations easy to install, practical and cost-effective.

Millions of litres of water cascade over several hundred weirs across the country, offering a new energy re-

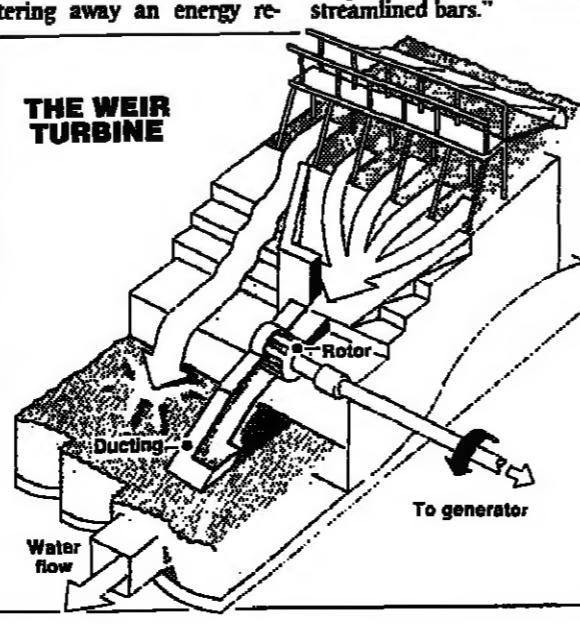
source estimated to equal 180MW of electricity. The low-head cross-flow turbine project has received £40,000 under the trade and industry department's Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Development scheme.

The turbine is said to be capable of generating 100kW from small heads of water by using two half-inch-thick steel discs with six hydrofoils in between. The device's inventor, Peter Fraenkel of IT Power, said: "It is like a hamster's running wheel but with special streamlined bars."

Dr Carey said: "It belongs to the Anglican way to put a high premium on the mind. Unless the mind is satisfied, the heart's emotions will not sustain us for long."

He said the biblical story of doubting Thomas offered intellectual freedom and a spiritual challenge. "The impression is sometimes given that mature Christians need never doubt or question their faith. That attitude closes doors to new Christians and prevents the growth of our own faith.

"We need the questioning mind of Thomas when faced with issues which stump us intellectually such as human pain and suffering, when evil seems to triumph over good, when prayer is not answered.



Carey calls on church to accept doubters

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday called on Anglican churches to resist divisions and fragmentation over disagreements of faith.

The church must be broad enough not to exclude the sceptics and doubters, Dr George Carey said in an address at St James's Church in Hendersville, North Carolina, during a visit to the US.

He was speaking a week after some Church of England clergy said that the bodily resurrection of Christ might not have occurred and expressed doubts in the divinity of Christ.

Dr Carey said: "It belongs to the Anglican way to put a high premium on the mind. Unless the mind is satisfied, the heart's emotions will not sustain us for long."

He said the biblical story of doubting Thomas offered intellectual freedom and a spiritual challenge. "The impression is sometimes given that mature Christians need never doubt or question their faith. That attitude closes doors to new Christians and prevents the growth of our own faith.

"We need the questioning mind of Thomas when faced with issues which stump us intellectually such as human pain and suffering, when evil seems to triumph over good, when prayer is not answered.

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Enquiry starts into claim that police framed 'murderer'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE conviction of a businessman sentenced to life imprisonment last year for the murder of a man while they were prisoners in a London police cell is being examined by officers from the Thames Valley force.

In a statement released today, the Police Complaints Authority confirms that a team led by Supt Tom Wright is investigating the conviction last September at the Central Criminal Court of Malcolm Kennedy, aged 44. He had denied murdering Patrick Quinn, aged 56, at Hammersmith police station on Christmas Eve 1990.

At the trial, the jury was told that both men were arrested as drunks and put in one cell. Kennedy allegedly attacked Mr Quinn during an argument, punching and kicking him to death. His trainers were found covered in blood from what might have been an unpremeditated and uncontrolled attack.

Kennedy, a man of slight

build with no criminal record or history of violence, claimed that the police were responsible for the death and had framed him. He alleged that he woke up to find someone hitting Mr Quinn and when he went to intervene he was knocked unconscious.

The defence said that police planted Kennedy's bloodied footprints on the dead man's body and clothing. Counsel also challenged police claims that the sound of the beating was not heard. There were also said to be differences between police statements and their evidence. The jury, however, rejected the claims.

His entire defence is the basis of a complaint against the police, thought to be first case of its kind. Complaints usually involve misconduct during investigations rather than a complete attack on the police. The original complaint was made to Scotland Yard after the conviction and this was passed on to the complaints authority. At one



Time to remember: Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, centre, attending a ceremony in Hyde Park, central London, yesterday to honour the six million Jews murdered in the Nazi holocaust. At the memorial stone for the victims, six women survivors lit candles: one for each million that perished in Hitler's concentration camps. The inscription on the stone, taken from Lamentations, reads: "For these I

weep. Streams of tears flow from my eyes because of the destruction of my people." Prayers for redemption were said and the London Jewish Male Choir performed "Don't say that this is the last road, the battle anthem for Jewish partisans after the Warsaw uprising. The service, organised by the Yad Vashem Committee of the UK, seeks to ensure that the world never forgets the holocaust victims.

Gas users' discontent increases

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPLAINTS about British Gas rose by 5.3 per cent last year to more than 77 a day, the Gas Consumers Council discloses in its annual report, out today.

The company's "Banishing Gripe" advertising campaign and its service quality pledges have failed to reduce dissatisfaction. British Gas's marketing activities were among the fastest-rising causes of complaint but disputes over bills and service and repair work continued to be most common among last year's 28,399 complaints.

British Gas said the relatively small rise in complaints did not reflect a lowering of standards. Cedric Brown, senior managing director, said: "Quite the opposite. The better we become, the tougher the yardstick against which we are measured." His aim was to eliminate complaints completely.

Almost 8,000 people protested to the council last year about a gas bill, a rise of 12.7 per cent on the previous year. The council said the company needed to give greater priority to providing clear and accurate bills and eliminating complaints about its budget payment schemes.

Almost 1,200 customers complained about bills based on estimated meter readings. The council said British Gas should make more effort to read meters every six months.

Complaints about service and repair work rose by 16.9 per cent to 4,588. Most were from customers who did not have a service contract. Because British Gas gave priority to contract customers, others sometimes received second rate service, the council said. Broken appointments were a common cause of complaint.

Call for equality, page 15

Wind limit on new aircraft

Advanced Turbo Prop aircraft have been banned from landing or taking off in winds of 52 knots and above after several incidents in high winds.

Tests on the recently introduced aircraft, used by British Airways and Loganair, are being carried out by the Civil Aviation Authority with the air accident investigation branch and British Aerospace, the manufacturer.

The CAA said that the problem concerned part of the starboard flight control system, which could become damaged in high winds.

Tools sold

Hundreds of tools from the Nottinghamshire workshop of Michael Sams, 50, charged with the murder of Julie Dart, 18, from Leeds, and the kidnap of a Birmingham estate agent, Stephan Slater, have raised about £6,000 at auction.

River death

A 16-year-old car thief was feared drowned yesterday after he dived into the river Medway while trying to escape police in the village of Yalding, Kent.

Climber saved

A climber who fell from a cliff at Anvil Point, Dorset, was saved when he landed on a ledge 20 feet down. He was rescued by helicopter.

Briefcase scare

A Japanese tourist caused a bomb scare when he chained his briefcase, with an Irish flag sticker, to a bench in Reading, Berkshire, while he went shopping.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond draw: £100,000, bond number 272K 210765, from Cheshire (value of holding £1,000); £50,000, KP 461770, Merseyside (£15); £25,000, 19XZ 793210, Wiltshire (£7,170).

Draw puts Short on the verge of victory

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short drew the ninth game of his world chess challenge semi-final with Anatoly Karpov yesterday, leaving him needing only half a point from the final game in Spain today to become the most successful British player in the history of the world championship.

Karpov, the former world champion, playing white, started on Saturday as if he was determined to sweep Short from the board. He established a dominating advantage but around the 30th move he completely lost the thread of the game. He drifted his attacking units to the wrong side of the board, losing a pawn in the process.

Just as Short seemed poised for victory, he threw away the fruits of his fine defence with an incurious check on the 41st move, allowing Karpov once again to enjoy a small advantage.

That error was caused by a frantic time scramble in which no one was quite sure whether the regulation 40

moves had been made to avoid losing on time forfeit. A draw in the ninth game gives Short 5 points to Karpov's 4. The tenth and final game takes place this afternoon with Short having the advantage of the white pieces. Short needs just a draw to go through to the final.

In the other semi-final between Jan Timman (Holland) and Artur Yusupov (Russia), Timman leads by 5 points to 4 and enjoys the advantage of white in the final game today.

Moves in the ninth game were:

Move	Short	Black	White	Black
1 e4	d5	g5	g5	g5
2 c4	dc4	g4	g4	g4
3 e4	h6	h6	h6	h6
4 e5	h5	h5	h5	h5
5 Bc4	h6	g4	g4	g4
6 Bb5	h5	Kg2	Kg2	Kg2
7 Be3	Bf5	Re7	Re7	Re7
8 Nc3	g5	Re5	Re5	Re5
9 Nf3	g4	Re4	Re4	Re4
10 a3	0-0	Kh2	Kh2	Kh2
11 0-0	h4	Kh1	Kh1	Kh1
12 Be2	Bxh2	Re5	Re5	Re5
13 Cxh2	Nc6	Re6	Re6	Re6
14 Rad1	Nf3	Rd5	Rd5	Rd5
15 Rad3	h3	Re7	Re7	Re7
16 Nf2	h2	Re6	Re6	Re6
17 Ne4	g5	Re7	Re7	Re7
18 Nf3	h4	Re6	Re6	Re6
19 Nf4	h3	Re5	Re5	Re5
20 Nf5	g5	Re4	Re4	Re4
21 Qe2	h2	Kg4	Kg4	Kg4
22 Re1	Qg5	Kg3	Kg3	Kg3
23 Rf7	Qxh2	Kg2	Kg2	Kg2
24 Rf5	Qxh3	Kg1	Kg1	Kg1
25 Rf6	Rxf6	Kg2	Kg2	Kg2
26 Re5	Nc6	Kg3	Kg3	Kg3
27 Qe5	Rf5	Kg4	Kg4	Kg4
28 Rf2	h1	g4	g4	g4
29 Rf4	Nd5	g3	g3	g3
30 Qe3	Cf6	Kg5	Kg5	Kg5
31 g3	Qg5	Kg4	Kg4	Kg4
32 Qe4	g2	Kg3	Kg3	Kg3

Draw agreed

Game 9 final position

Cossiga to seek second term

FROM JOHN FEARN
SUPPRESSORS of President Cossiga yesterday began to run for a second term after he planned Italy into a constitutional upset by resigning at a time when the country has only a caretaker government.

Gianfranco Fini, the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement leader, said: "The Italian people want the re-election of Cossiga for president. The people want a man who serves the country at the highest level."

If he chose to run again, Signor Cossiga, 63, would also have the support of the small Liberal party, the National League of the North, as well as sections of the Christian Democrat and Cialente parties. But such a move probably would be unlikely, and it is thought likely that a candidate from one of the big parties would succeed him.

Five million Italians voted in the L&T section, page 15

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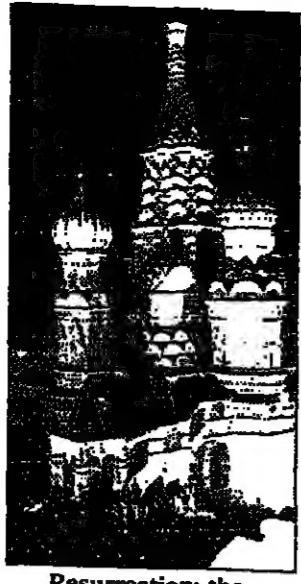
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WINNER OF LE MANS 91

Longest day

L&T section, page 15

Easter bells call out the faithful from Moscow to Kiev



Resurrection: the church of St Basil

ROARS of delight erupted throughout the night from the magnificent citadel of Sergiyev Posad as thousands of pilgrims gathered here, and in churches across the Orthodox world, to celebrate the first Easter since the fall of Russian communism.

Something of the spirit of medieval Canterbury was in the air as the devout lit candles, the greedy sold painted wooden eggs, and the curious looked on in wonder, keen to participate but confused by the arcane language and rituals. But the grins of childlike delight on the faces of scores of gaunt seminarians, whose fasting was presumably very strict indeed, the clouds of incense, and the endless cries of "Christos vostkese" (Christ has risen) told their own story.

The churches have been packed for the first Easter since the fall of communism, write Bruce Clark in Sergiyev Posad and Robert Seely in Kiev

For hours before the service, plump matrons, many of whom had travelled long distances, perched precariously on tiny folding chairs as they waited with infinite patience, jealously guarding their places near the front of the gilded iconostasis. The only thing that cooled the atmosphere of religious ardour was unseasonably cold weather. Only the most devout can have observed the tradition of watching the sun rise on Easter Sunday morning to see whether it dances in

the sky. Zagorsk — to use the Communist name by which most people still know this town east of Moscow — has a particular resonance for Russians during their country's current upheavals, because of its association with Saint Sergius of Radonezh. It was this 14th-century medieval ascetic who is credited with inspiring Russia's revival from a low point in its fortunes and the defeat of the nation's Mongol overlords.

Alexy II, the Patriarch of

Moscow, warmed to the theme of religion as a refuge in troubled times in his Easter message to the faithful: "At this difficult time, full of privation and trial for many of us, let this beautiful feast . . . give us strength to retain Christian patience and courage, whatever the circumstances," he said.

The Patriarch received members of the Russian leadership for a separate blessing. The dignitaries who included Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian vice-president, and Valeri Zorkin, chairman of the constitutional court, were shown crossing themselves, kissing the Patriarch's ring and being given a small porcelain Easter egg in a red box.

But the darker side of Russia's religious tradition was

also in evidence in Sergiyev Posad as worshippers entering the castellated monastery grounds were offered copies of an anti-Semitic broadsheet.

The publication denounced the holding of a Jewish service inside the Kremlin last December and accused the authorities of failing to investigate the "Talmudic conspiracy" that it blamed for the murder of three priests over the past two years.

In Moscow, the bells of St Basil's cathedral rang out over Red Square at midnight where several thousand Russians, including many young families, had gathered, with candles to celebrate Easter. As the bells pealed, priests and congregation emerged from the floodlit church for

the traditional procession around the outside.

For those who stayed at home, television provided live transmission of the four-hour Easter service from the patriarchal church in central Moscow interspersed for the first time with live coverage of orthodox Easter services from the capitals of Bulgaria and Romania.

In Kiev old ladies gently jostled each other for space as the packed trolley buses headed for midnight orthodox service at the Pecherskaya Lavra monastery. The Pecherskaya complex, which began life in 1051 as a series of underground tombs and churches, has slowly returned to life as one of the spiritual centres of eastern Orthodoxy. However, it is no longer the elderly who

form the bulk of believers. The young, more often than not dressed for a free rock festival, are returning to the Church out of faith, curiosity or a rebirth of Ukrainian pride.

● Paris: The body of Grand Duke Vladimir Romanov, the heir of the last Russian tsar, lay in a Russian Orthodox church near Paris yesterday before being taken to St Petersburg for burial later this week. The Grand Duke, who died in Miami on Tuesday, will probably be buried in a small chapel next to the Peter and Paul Fortress where the remains of Russian Tsars lie. There was no question of him being buried in the fortress itself, which is reserved for emperors. (Reuter)

Yugoslav army is marooned

Sarajevo: President Izetbegovic of Bosnia was starting talks yesterday with commanders of the Yugoslav army on the future of Europe's newest state and of the army itself (Tim Judah writes).

Serb irregulars backed by the army have secured large areas of the republic, but the army is marooned in Bosnia from today, when Serbia and Montenegro are to declare the founding of a new Yugoslav state. It will consist of only these two out of the old six Yugoslav republics and its frontiers will be their present borders. The Yugoslav army in Bosnia will therefore be left, by Belgrade's own definition, in a foreign country.

Under the constitution of the new state other "units" may choose to join it. This crucial clause means that Serbia can have no territorial pretensions in Bosnia or Croatia. At the same time it leaves the door open for the self-proclaimed Serbian republics in Bosnia and Croatia to join "New Yugoslavia" if and when the time is right.

Finance chief to quit politics

Johannesburg: The announcement by Barend du Plessis, the South African finance minister, that he will resign at the end of the month surprised the white political community yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

Mr du Plessis, 52, who went into hospital two weeks ago, said he was retiring because of exhaustion, not ill health. Two years ago he came within eight votes of becoming the National Party's leader. He will also quit as an MP and as party leader in the Transvaal.

Demirel quest

Istanbul: Suleyman Demirel, Turkey's prime minister, is embarking on a week-long tour of Central Asia's five newly independent Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union to further Turkish interests and find new markets.

Garrison falls

Nairobi: Sudanese troops supported by Iranian revolutionary guards have recaptured the White Nile garrison town of Mongalla in the offensive against rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Mongalla is the eighth town to fall in six weeks.

President trials

Paris: President Mitterrand is supported by 20 per cent of the electorate, according to an opinion poll in *Le Journal du Dimanche*, against 30 per cent for Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, which is the largest such gap for more than three decades.

Tanker sinks

Maputo: The Greek oil tanker Kalina P exploded and sank a week after running aground off the coast of Mozambique. There were no casualties but the extent of the damage from the tanker's 430,000 barrels of fuel oil is not yet clear. (AP)

Airman sought

Lima: Rescuers are still searching for an American airman lost over the Pacific when a Peruvian warplane fired on a US drug surveillance plane. The incident may further strain relations between Washington and Peru's government (AP).

Relics offered

Peking: Relics from China's Ming and Qing dynasties will be sold by the Peking auction market in October, marking the first time the country has allowed the sale of such cultural treasures. The official China Daily newspaper reported. (Reuter)

Bucharest hails its former monarch

A private visit evoked joy and hope for Romanians, Sean Hillen writes

SHOWERS of red and white tulips bedecked the cavalcade as exiled King Michael of Romania drove triumphantly through the Romanian capital. More than 100,000 well-wishers lined the route shouting "King in, Iliescu out".

On a bright Orthodox Easter Sunday, he was resurrected from relative obscurity in Switzerland and hailed as the new leader of the country. The former king, 70, who was forced to abdicate by the communists in 1947, returned with his wife Anne, his second daughter Elena and his grandson Nicolae.

On their arrival at Otopeni airport, they were greeted by thousands of people and a large contingent of police and soldiers. The tight security, however, did not prevent a two-mile long snake of cars from following his Mercedes as it wound its way along Avenue Kiseleff to the Arch of Triumph where crowds blocked the main roads. Pushing and shoving each other for a look at the former monarch, they offered bread and salt, the traditional Romanian welcome. Many people wept openly while others shouted "King Michael, don't leave. This is your country" and also, "Let him stay in the country".

As the cavalcade passed University Square, the most dramatic symbol of the 1989 revolution, people leaned over the balconies of their tower blocks. They waved the national flag with the symbol of the monarchy in the middle. The emblem reads "Nothing without God". Thousands of copies of the newspaper *Future Romania* were handed out in the street. The newspaper devoted its entire issue to the former king's visit.

Liana Ghenea and Mihaela Sirbu, two Transylvanian women, greeted the king with enthusiasm. "He is the best thing for the



Home again: King Michael, with his wife Anne, marking his return to Romania by lighting candles celebrating the Orthodox Easter, at Putna

country at this time. We want a new leader who is clean of all sin. Some of the present leaders are not fit to lead Romania out of its present social and economic difficulties."

Nicu Popescu, a pensioner, smiled upon seeing the cavalcade and said: "No body trusts the Bolsheviks who are in power across our own borders. We have been living in misery for 45 years and we don't want to live in

misery for much longer. I want King Michael back because he is trusted by the West and can lead us forward." Mr Popescu, who considers meat a luxury because he can only afford bread and vegetables, said that a monarchy in Romania would be "good" for young people.

The former king arrived in Romania on Saturday at the invitation of Archbishop Pinen of Suceava. On

Saturday afternoon he visited Putna monastery and the shrine of St Stephen.

As his visit was designated as a private one, he was not greeted by any high government official. Teodor Stoian, the prime minister, had said that he would not be in Bucharest on the Easter weekend but added that the former monarch was a private citizen and as such was free to visit Romania.

German strikes gain support

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY today faces the most widespread and disruptive series of strikes in its postwar history, after unions representing nearly three million public service workers in the west received massive backing from their members for industrial action in support of a pay claim that the government insists is "economically crazy".

The results of a ballot declared on Saturday showed that an average 89.9 per cent of members in all sectors are prepared to strike for a 9.5 per cent claim. At the same time Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and Theo Waigel, his finance minister, insist that there is only enough money available for a 4.8 per cent increase.

Herr Waigel says the battle against inflation means there has to be a freeze on public spending until the middle of the decade while the independent Bundesbank is threatening to push up interest rates again if the unions win anything like their claim.

Faced with the possibility of a long stoppage, the government is already considering plans to use the Bundeswehr to empty dustbins and call on civil servants — who are con-



No change: a *General Anzeiger* cartoon character in a strike-hit post office says: "I see no difference"

sitionally not allowed to strike — to do essential administrative jobs.

The last strike in the public service sector 18 years ago was far more limited than the one that is now being prepared and the public at large has no real experience of coping with what is still called "the English disease" of widespread industrial action. Trains, trams, post and refuse collection services will be most seriously affected. However, workers from groups as different as gravediggers, tax collectors, harbour workers,

airport ground staff and motorway maintenance men are also involved.

With such widespread

Austria's presidential race still undecided

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN VIENNA

AUSTRIA began to emerge from six years in the diplomatic wilderness yesterday as it voted for a new president to replace Kurt Waldheim in the Hohenzollern palace.

With nearly half the ballots

counted, Rudolf Streicher,

the Social Democrat and former minister of transport and nationalised industries, had secured 41.5 per cent of the vote. Thomas Klestil, the career diplomat representing the conservative People's Party had 35.5 per cent. The two will go forward to a run-off next month.

Heide Schmidt, the candidate of the extreme-right Freedom Party appeared delighted with the steady affability they believed was required to inspire trust. Herr Streicher, a violinist who conducts orchestras in his spare time, sought to create an image of harmony with the country's traditions by presenting voters with recordings of himself conducting the "Blue Danube Walz".

Herr Klestil has concentrated on restoring Austria's image abroad with posters of himself meeting President Bush.

Who will secure the presi-

dency is uncertain. Freedom

Party votes will transfer in the second round to the People's Party, leaving Herr Streicher, the campaign favourite, with a fight on his hands.

The moribund two-party

consensus under which all

significant posts in politics

Cossiga begged to seek second term

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SUPPORTERS of President Cossiga yesterday begged him to run for a second term after he plunged Italy into a constitutional upset by tearfully announcing his resignation at a time when the country has only a caretaker government.

Gianfranco Fini, the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement leader, said: "The Italian people want the reappointment of Cossiga for the presidency of the republic. The people want a man who serves the country at the Quirinal palace."

If he chose to run again, Signor Cossiga, 63, would also have the support of the small Liberal party, the regional League of the North, as well as sections of the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties. But such backing probably would be insufficient, and it is thought more likely that a candidate from one of the big parties will succeed him.

Five million Italians watched Signor Cossiga announce his resignation on television on Saturday at the end of a melodramatic 50-minute speech in which he

Germany firm, page 15

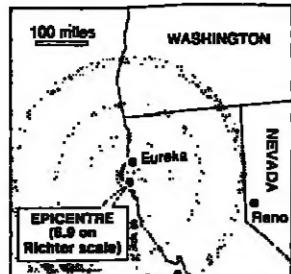
Aftershocks jolt California but scientists call for calm

By JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AFTERSHOCKS continued to jolt northern California yesterday as authorities began to repair the damage caused by Saturday's major earthquake, the second to hit California in a week.

The biggest tremor, registering 6.0 on the Richter scale, set fire to a shopping mall in Scotia, a logging town 40 miles south of Eureka, and caused additional damage to the towns of Ferndale and Fortuna. Peter Wilson, the governor of California, declared a state of emergency in one county and said that preliminary estimates put the damage at £2 million, but scientists sought to calm fears that California might soon face the long-dreaded Big One, an earthquake of the kind which devastated parts of San Francisco in 1906.

Chris Browitt of the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh said that with every hour that passed the likelihood of an earthquake reaching 8 or larger on the Richter Scale was receding. The pattern of tremors in California, one of the most earthquake-prone parts of the world, was



such that if Saturday's earthquake was a precursor of a larger one, this should have struck within hours.

Dr Browitt's views were echoed by Waverly Person of the US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado: "We do not see this is any indication that this is leading up to anything bigger to come," he said. "You have to remember that the whole San Andreas fault system and others are active and certainly we are going to have a large earthquake sooner or later. But to say these ones are leading up to that would be wrong in our opinion."

Dr Browitt said Saturday's shock appeared to have hap-

pened around the southern boundary of a tectonic plate called the Juan de Fuca where it joins the San Andreas fault, which runs north-south. He said that if their assessment of the risk was correct then the area could continue to suffer aftershocks for days and possibly weeks but that the scale of these aftershocks should diminish until they were only detectable by instruments.

The arrival of these recent earthquakes has naturally triggered concern that a great earthquake might be on the way. The 1906 one that devastated San Francisco has been estimated as being around 8.3 and most scientists expect such an event could occur at any time, although trying to predict exactly when it will happen still eludes science.

An earthquake similar to this weekend's hit the Bay Area 50 miles south of San Francisco in October 1989, killing around 65 people. Most of these deaths occurred when a double-decker freeway collapsed. Dr Browitt said most of the earthquake-resistant buildings, which the

state has been developing, survived "quite well".

Other quakes in the area include the earthquake of 1857 and in 1872 off the main San Andreas fault system around the eastern part of the Owens Valley fault. In October 1987 eight people were killed by a smallish earthquake measuring 5.9 and 62 people died in 1971 when one measuring 7.5 hit southern California.

"There have also been a few 7s in northern California with one back in 1980," said Mr Person. The last great earthquake measuring 8 or greater was in north America was in Alaska in 1964.

World-wide the level of earthquake activity appears to be stable and not on the increase, he said. "In a given year you would estimate around 18 major earthquakes of between 7 and 7.9 and one great one of 8 or more," said Mr Person.

"I have gone back 15 years and the average is about eleven-and-a-half major ones a year. The last great earthquake was in 1989 south of New Zealand."



Crushing blow: a resident of Ferndale, California, surveys his car, wrecked in Saturday's earthquake

Mexico blames state oil firm for explosions

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN GUADALAJARA

MEXICO'S attorney general, Ignacio Morales Lechuga, announced criminal proceedings yesterday against nine top officials of Pemex, the state oil company, and the Guadalajara city authority whose negligence, he says, was responsible for the deaths of at least 190 people last week.

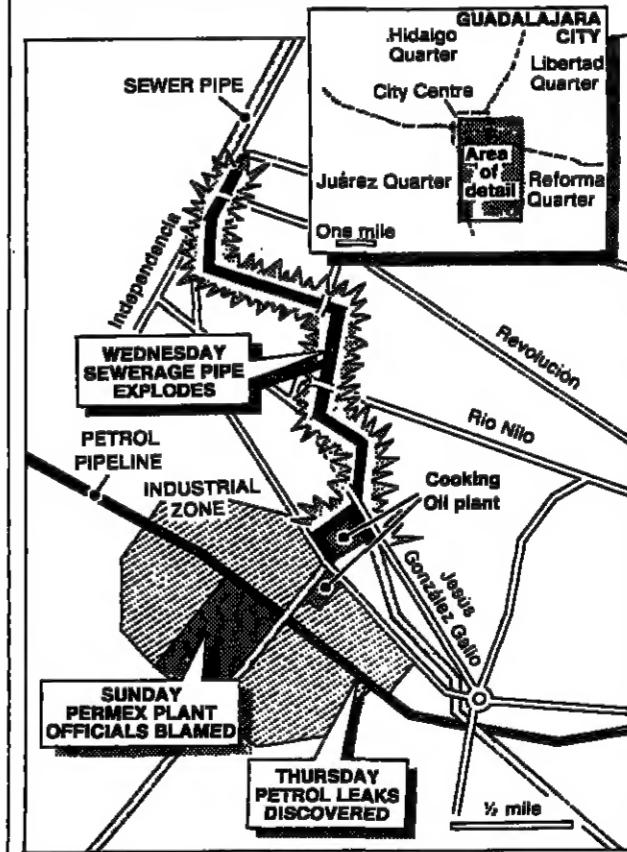
Announcing the results of an investigation ordered by President Salinas de Gortari, Señor Morales said the massive explosions in the city's sewer system were caused by the leakage of large quantities of gasoline from a Pemex pipeline and had been exacerbated by the presence of a highly volatile liquid gas called hexane and other combustible industrial waste.

Señor Morales pointed to the presence of unlead petrol in a leak from a Pemex duct and added: "There are penal and civil responsibilities to private citizens and to public servants who, because of impotence, negligence or omission, contributed to the results now known."

"As for the tragic consequences of the explosion, we have established responsibility for negligence initiated by the mayor, Enrique Dau Flores, and the state secretary of urban development, Aristeo Mejia," the attorney general said.

"It has been established that the loss of life could have been avoided if these public officials had acted... by evacuating residents from the area of highest risk." Señor Morales said both officials had been warned. He also accused officials of violations of the ecological balance and the environmental protection law.

Guadalajara is still a nervous city. Three more neighbourhoods were evacuated on Sunday after the authorities detected the smell of escaping gas. But there are no longer police on every corner, and ambulances racing down the streets. The immediate emergency is over, a Red Cross spokesman said. "What is left is the sombre task of cleaning up the staggering destruction."



Poll reveals Perot gaining on Clinton

By JAMIE DETTMER

AS BILL Clinton, the Democratic front-runner for the presidential nomination, tried to escape the incessant questioning of his character by focusing attacks on President Bush's record in government, H. Ross Perot's independent challenge for the White House received a boost at the weekend when a national poll suggested that, for a fifth of the electorate, he is now the preferred candidate.

According to the opinion poll, conducted for *The New York Times*, Mr Perot, the Texan billionaire, is within five percentage points of Mr Clinton and is also taking support away from Mr Bush. On the eve of tomorrow's Pennsylvania primary, the poll makes sombre reading for both the established parties. It provides further evidence that voter discontent with traditional politics has not diminished since the high points in the campaigns of Patrick Buchanan and Jerry Brown.

More than half those surveyed said they were unhappy with the options being confined to President Bush and Mr Clinton: 61 per cent said government would work better if "we voted in all new people". A total of 57 per cent wanted fundamental change.

The poll, which gave Mr

Bush 38 per cent, Mr Clinton 28 per cent, and Mr Perot 23 per cent, offered some evidence that Mr Perot is just a temporary vehicle for voter anger. More than two-thirds of those surveyed admitted they knew little about him. More than half were unable to say where he stood in the political spectrum. What his supporters in the poll like about him is his forcefulness and business background. Mr Perot was the only candidate in the poll who gained more favourable than negative opinions.

The campaign managers of the two established parties pointed out yesterday that spring polls are seldom accurate in predicting the eventual result in presidential contests. In 1980, John Anderson, the last serious independent candidate, consistently gained 20 or more per cent support in spring polls but attracted only 7 per cent of the presidential vote six months later.

Mr Perot's supporters argue that, backed by his personal wealth, estimated at \$3.5 billion (£2 billion), he will be a more powerful contender. They also say that voter discontent in 1980 was negligible compared to the anger now seen against politics-as-usual in the United States.

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Silent invasion of Kabul spotlights rebel skills

The immaculate conquest of the Afghan capital was achieved by fighters in one rebel faction outmanoeuvring another. Christopher Thomas writes from Kabul

THE CONQUEST Kabul began with the takeover of a police station near the Blue Mosque at 11 am on Saturday. By mid-afternoon the first phase was over: 24 hours later the long-anticipated fighting between the rival guerrilla groups began in earnest.

As darkness fell on Saturday, a few dozen Mujahidin scuttled down for the night in the grounds of the grey-brick presidential palace, looking out calmly on a changed Kabul through tall black gates. The palace clocktower showed 8pm, the city streets were empty and the city was quiet. It was a slick, silent invasion.

The scene was the same everywhere — at the defence ministry, the foreign ministry, the television station, the central armoury. All symbols of power changed hands in an operation planned meticulously and executed with discipline. It took a full day for the fundamentalist guerrillas of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to realise that they had been outmanoeuvred by their more disciplined and organised rivals.

Not a door was kicked in at the palace. Not so much as a piece of bread was looted. The presidential secretariat, square and ugly, stood empty and unmolessted, the lights still on in many rooms. The doors stood open, but nobody entered.

The attacking rebels came from Jamiat-i-Islami, headed

into Kabul if necessary. Mr Masood provided the skill and discipline. General Dostum provided most of the muscle.

Their men strolled around with rocket launchers, nervous in case the Pashtun Hezb-i-Islami opened fire on them. A few hours earlier fighters from that group took 50 rifles from a military guard post and walked off.

The colonel in charge laughed and joked with them: he gave up the guns without protest. He said it was all over, so why fight? His men, still in uniform, went home. Nobody troubled or threatened them. The vanquished were not ill-treated.

Outside the grubby Kabul hotel in the centre of town a group of Jamiat-i-Islami men captured a commander from the rival Hezb-i-Islami group. They slapped him about the face and pushed him around.

Then one of them took his hand, walked down the middle of the road with him, stopped and saluted. "Go home," he said. "It is finished." The man returned the salute, walked off into the shadows of the dimly lit street, and doubtless wondered why he was still alive.

Every road had a Mujahidin checkpoint. Here was Hezb-i-Islami, there was Jamiat, somewhere else it was General Dostum's men. Uzbeks from the north held some strategic buildings. Tajiks held others. A rebel group took over the institute for social sciences building. The Hezb-i-Islami men held on to the interior ministry, but nobody at this early stage tried to flush them out: though that was to change within a day.

Rival Mujahidin approached, there was a tense moment, and they went away. Having fought against one enemy for so long, perhaps the commanders could not stomach a fight among themselves. Lorry-loads of Mujahidin thundered down the roads, charging through rival checkpoints. And nobody fired a shot.

Dawn came yesterday with a bang. Big guns roared, smoke rose in some areas of the city, military helicopters clattered over and a few fighter planes flew low over the capital. On the streets some mujahidin fighters decorated their rifles and rocket launchers with large red geraniums. They were effusively friendly.

As the day wore on street fighting continued as rival factions clashed. In the first day there was nothing like the terrible bloodletting that everybody had predicted: that, it now seems, may come later.

The Pashtuns have dominated the government and armed force for centuries.



Running battle: one of General Abdul Dostum's Mujahidin rebels firing his Kalashnikov rifle at fighters in the rival Hezb-i-Islami group as he sprinted across a street near the palace in Kabul yesterday. General Dostum is reputed to have limitless fighting resources

Fighting raises fear of permanent civil war

THE capture of Kabul ends nearly 14 years of war against the previously Russian-backed Pashtun government, but the fighting that broke out yesterday threatens to engulf the country in a conflict between rival tribal groups, with the prospect of permanent civil war.

Afghanistan has become divided into fiefdoms headed by Mujahidin commanders and local warlords. Kabul is only notionally the capital.

The army has collapsed as a centralised force, the police have gone home, leading civil servants are hiding. The two main Mujahidin rivals are left to fight among themselves.

Lorry-loads of Mujahidin

have total control over his men in the field. His forces, although heavily armed with American weapons, have never fought a great battle.

Events moved so fast that many of their most powerful weapons were probably in the wrong place at the wrong time, and consequently the battle for Kabul was probably lost on the first day. Moving tanks, artillery and rockets across Afghanistan means crossing hostile territory, and it evidently proved nearly impossible. There is enough in place, however, to bombard Kabul.

Mr Masood, leader of the Jamiat-i-Islami party, started adult life, like Mr Hekmatyar, as an engineering student in Kabul. He is based in the Panjshir valley, 40 miles north of Kabul, and his empire extends over most of the north-east.

He rules a city that has a small Tajik majority. Pashtuns are perhaps 35 per cent of the capital's population of 1.8 million. They will find it galling to be ruled by a Tajik, even one as illustrious as Mr Masood.

Perhaps a Pashtun will become president. Such a move would be typical of his tolerance. The Pashtuns still might revolt. But perhaps they will submit to a broad-based government if one can be installed.

Mr Masood has proved frequently his acceptance of Afghanistan's complex pattern of tribal customs, ethnic rivalries and religious practices.

Unlike the other six parties based in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, Jamiat-i-Islami is predominantly non-Pashtun. It is supported mostly by Persian-speaking Tajiks and to a lesser extent by the Uzbeks of northern Afghanistan.

The party therefore understands the meaning and the misery of ethnic subjugation.

Mr Masood, as an engineer, has also emphasised with oppressed minorities like the Hazaras of the central highlands and the Nuristanis of the east, who suffered more than most under the Durranis.

Rebuilding Afghanistan will have to be done with foreign money, because the treasury is empty. It will be difficult to achieve with so much rivalry on the ground.

Foreigners arguably created the Afghan war. Their departure has brought one phase to an end. Washington and Moscow have become allies, but they have left a terrible legacy.

As darkness fell on Saturday another era thundered over Kabul. The coming days will demonstrate whether Pashtuns and non-Pashtuns

are at war, or if this is just the dust settling.

As the report estimates there are about 200 refining laboratories in the Pashtun-dominated Khyber and Mohmand areas processing opium grown in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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are at war, or if this is just the dust settling.

Masood: his fighters did him proud

by Ahmad Shah Masood, who runs his own fiefdom in north-east Afghanistan. He has always been the most effective Mujahidin commander, and his men did him proud. He directed operations from Charikar, 30 miles north of the capital, where he has established a headquarters in a boarding house.

Forces also took part from the northern military council of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, whose coalition of army, militia and Mujahidin runs practically the entire north of the country. He has almost limitless forces to pour

Band for control, page 1

Leading article, page II

Politicians focus on Levy camp

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

LIKE reluctant suitors competing for the hand of a vulgar but wealthy widow, Israel's political elite yesterday shamelessly courted the votes of the country's immigrant Moroccans.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour party leader, had to sit patiently next to each other under an Arab-style tent in a Jerusalem park yesterday as they were plied with sweetmeats and kebabs by the Moroccan community.

The dignitaries assembled beside them read like a Who's Who of Israeli politics. They included such extreme right-wingers as Rehavam Zeevi, the Moledet leader, who momentarily put aside his differences with Shulamit Aloni, the dovish Meretz Party leader, to celebrate the Moroccan feast of Mimouna marking the end of Passover.

The strong turnout was not a sudden conversion on behalf of the dominant Ashkenazim (European Jews) political figures to the often alien customs of the Sephardic (Oriental Jewish) community. But it was an admission that the Sephardim will almost certainly determine the outcome of the election.

That realisation became clear last month when David Levy, the Moroccan-born foreign minister, threatened to resign from the government because of alleged discrimination by Mr Shamir. In addition, the Moroccan community, made up largely of blue-collar workers, has been hit harder than most by Israel's current economic travail and record 11 per cent unemployment.

Price rises could light Algiers fuse

Islamic fundamentalists bent on power are bringing the threat of conflict closer, Christopher Walker writes

AT THE Souk el-Fellah, the Soviet-style store in the Algiers slum of Bab el-Oued, panic-stricken veiled women were stripping shelves of sugar and other subsidised products amid rumours that the military regime was about to free prices as part of its drive to shake that lights the fuse.

Under an International Monetary Fund plan, subsidies on all items except bread, semolina and milk must end. Twice the move has been postponed but now seems inevitable.

Neatly, along streets still plastered with Islamic slogans at the Es-Sunna mosque where the front began in 1989, armed police with their fingers on the trigger supervised Friday prayers. Since the front was forced underground, it has reorganised itself into Baader-Meinhof-style cells, each led by a religious shahid. Members of these cells have murdered 18 policemen over 45 days and nightly gunfire can now be heard in Algiers.

The supreme court yesterday began a final hearing of an appeal launched by the front against the ban imposed on March 4 when its dissolution was ordered because of violations of the law. A verdict is due by May 4.

After initial relief that the coup had prevented an Islamic state close to Europe's underbelly, there is a grim realisation that no viable structure has yet appeared to end support for the front.

Burmese junta frees aide to detained opposition leader

BY NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BURMA'S military junta yesterday freed seven more political prisoners, including a personal assistant of Aung San Suu Kyi, the detained opposition leader and Nobel peace prize winner, and five senior officials of her party.

Earlier, General Than Shwe, the new junta chief, made it known that he was prepared for a face-to-face meeting with Daw Suu Kyi to discuss her future, according to foreign diplomats and Rangoon residents. They said the possibility of some dialogue had been spread by official circles since the government began announcing important new policies and a change of leadership three days ago.

Those released also included Nita Yin Yin May, the information officer of the British embassy who was jailed in November 1990. The official Rangoon radio, monitored in Bangkok, said all of them were released from Rangoon's Insein jail yesterday afternoon.

Daw Suu Kyi, 46, has been detained in virtual isolation for almost three years, but the government says it will release her only if she leaves the country. It has made clear that she will not be among the political prisoners currently being freed because she is regarded as a threat to national security.

U Nu, the former prime minister, and 11 other prisoners were released on Saturday and more are expected to be set free on a regular basis. Numbers are uncertain as the

Suu Kyi: family may now visit her

military has always denied holding political prisoners, but diplomats and international humanitarian organisations estimate that there are more than 2,000 of them. Of that total, about 20 are considered to be security risks.

Although Daw Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in the elections two years ago, the military refused to hand over power and said she could never have a political role because of her marriage to a foreigner. Since she first emerged as the champion of democracy in the uprising against military rule in 1988, she has been vilified by the state-run media.

The attacks, which were likened to the worst Nazi propaganda, stopped recently and the authorities have begun referring to her as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi instead of Daw Suu Kyi. Rangoon residents regard the change as significant because it reminds everyone that she is the daughter of a national hero, the late General Aung San.

The reshuffled government has promised a new political programme, but democratic rule still appears far off. The military and opposition politicians are to meet within two months to discuss the convening of a constitutional conference by the end of October. A national referendum on the constitution will follow and then another general election.

"The process could take years," said one ambassador in Rangoon.

Diplomats believe the concessions, limited as they are, represent a victory for the pragmatists over hardliners in the leadership. Major General Khin Nyunt, the junta's strongman, is known to have been pressing for some move forward from a stalemate which has isolated Burma from the outside world. Even its best friends, such as China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations, have condemned its abuses of human rights.

Another force for change has been the economy, which has been falling into even deeper trouble. There is runaway inflation. Some basic foods have gone up 800 per cent in price in five years. Taxation is being spread more widely; there is now a special levy on ox carts. And state workers are so hostile to the government that sabotage in offices and other workplaces is commonplace.

The annual budget, which was announced last week, predicts a deficit of nearly £600 million, with spending forecast to exceed receipts by as much as 50 per cent. Defence alone will take up 35 per cent of the budget. The armed forces have almost doubled in numbers to 300,000 since 1988.

Miyazawa leaves his domestic woes behind

Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, leaves behind a host of domestic woes when he departs this week on a whirlwind tour of Europe, his second overseas trip since taking office.

Confidence is declining in Japan on whether Mr Miyazawa can keep his promises to enact political reform, stamp out corruption, and send troops overseas as UN peacekeepers. The latest monthly poll, by the Jiji news agency, showed voter support for his government falling to a new low of 21.1 per cent.

Frank Sinatra serenaded Shirley MacLaine during an impromptu 58th birthday

celebration for the actress in New Orleans where were they performing at the Superdome. He also gave her a napkin adorned with an original Sinatra drawing.

President Havel of Czechoslovakia arrived in Seoul for a three-day visit that will include a meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Roh Tae Woo.

The German scientist Adolf Seilacher has won the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Crafoord Prize for research into evolution. The award is made for research in areas not covered by Nobel prizes.

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How to choose the Speaker

Lord St John of Fawsley suggests that MPs be left to take their own decision

Today the House of Commons will proceed to the first act of the new Parliament and elect a member to one of the great offices of state, ranking sixth in precedence after the royal family.

The Speaker uniquely embodies in his person both the dignified and efficient aspects of Bagehot's dichotomy of the constitution. The dignity is manifested by the gorgeous robes of state, the golden glitter of the mace, and the pomp, ceremony and deference by which he is surrounded. The efficient takes its turn in its impartial daily presiding over one of the most turbulent and lively assemblies in the world; in his role as judge in making procedural rulings which, if wise, may influence generations of parliamentarians to come; and in taking the chair at conferences and conventions to shape the country's constitutional future.

So what sort of man is needed to discharge these momentous responsibilities? First, he must have *gravitas*. He must be able to impose his will and bring order out of potential chaos by the force of personality, presence and character alone. It is said that when Speaker Fitzroy entered the chamber, silence was evoked by the mere rustle of his gown. Noisy shenanigans are not so easily quelled today. The Speaker must have a sense of humour and the gift of wit, preferably of the self-deprecating variety. I once heard Speaker Thomas calm an

ill-tempered rebellion in the Commons when members were bellowing "It's in the newspapers Mr Speaker" with the single phrase, delivered in that mellow Welsh accent "So's my horoscope". And the Speaker must have good health and stamina, to survive the long hours, the heat of the bright lights, the stale air and the high-decibel assault on ear and nerve. The people who tend to regard all those in public life as characters out of a cartoon need occasionally to be reminded that beneath the heavy official robes there is flesh and blood.

Then comes the key question. How do you identify this paragon? At this point you descend into a procedural thicket of such murk and complexity that Lord Jenkins of Hillhead's opaque letter on the subject in *The Times* last Thursday becomes comparatively translucent. The difficulty starts with the happily engorged Mr Heath, who will preside over the proceedings as Father of the House. Does he call the Conservative nominee first and the Labour second, and anyway does the one who speaks first have the advantage or the second, who is the first to be voted upon? (My own view is that convention indicates that senior government backbenchers' names should be considered first.)

Let me start with the known landmarks. When an election to the speakership takes place the governing party has the right not to choose the individual Speaker but to see him drawn from its own ranks. If in a subsequent Par-

liament the government changes, the normal practice is for the incumbent speaker to be re-elected. The notion that the speakership moves from one side of the House to the other is common but erroneous, which is not to deny that a popular error may contain its own intuitive wisdom. The justification for present practice is that it goes a long way to ensure that elections are not contested and the new Speaker has the great advantage of starting his reign in a united House, not a bruised, fractious and fragmented one.

There have been two exceptions to this rule in the past 50 years, the first in 1951 when Speaker Morrison defeated the then deputy Speaker, Major Milner, by 318 votes to 251, the second, largely missed by the pundits, in 1971 when Selwyn Lloyd (Conservative) defeated Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (Labour) by 294 votes to 55. Sir Geoffrey's contest was in many ways the more significant, since it represented a spontaneous rebellion from the back benches against a stitching up of the election by the party bosses, and it ended in a paradoxical farce with Sir Geoffrey being a reluctant candidate, rising to protest that he neither wanted the post nor had been consulted about it by his proposers.

The situation to be resolved today turns on the difficulty for the Tory whips that while Labour has a clear consensus candidate

in the person of the experienced and personable Betty Boothroyd, the Tories have no dominant star but five candidates, none with obvious majority support and all with different handicaps.

Peter Brooke, for example, has presence and is widely respected, but to pass direct from the cabinet to Speaker's chair is unprecedented, the nearest parallel being that of Sir Harry Hyton Foster in 1959, and he was a participant minister but a law officer.

Mrs Boothroyd's supporters

put forward a variety of arguments in her favour. She is deputy Speaker (but there is no apostolic succession in speakership); she is Labour and it would be fair, and make for less rowdiness, to give Labour a chance. These are beguiling arguments, but without any determining constitutional significance. It might well be in the interest of Parliament for the whips on either side to reach such a consensus, but are Tory whips in their smoke-filled rooms, where patronage is all, noble enough to give up such a prize?

My own solution is at once more radical and, I believe, more in the spirit of the constitution. Why do not the whips of all parties follow the sagacious example of the prime minister, withdraw from the scene, and leave the members to come to their own decision. The collective judgment of the House of Commons is wiser than that of any individual in it, and if left alone the members might well come up with the right answer and the best person.

There's glory for you! Still, he

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Derby born and Derbyshire bred! Strong in the head, and thick in the head. So runs the contemporary Midlands folk wisdom. "Strong in the arm and weak in the head" is more authentic, while experts insist on "Wit in the head", adding that wit does not mean weak but formidable. My comparative study of London and Derbyshire mice favours the contemporary version.

From 1978-1990 I lived in a terraced house near Clapham Junction that had mice. It was a war of attrition on both sides. The mice tried to deprive me of food, and I tried to feed the mice poison. Nobody won. The mice would claim that by the end of the campaign there were as many of them as at the start. I replied there were as many of me too; and that several mice died during hostilities.

The mice would counter with the remark, plainly true, that the day is coming when I shall no longer exist, whereas there will still be mice. I replied that at Cambridge we called this a "category mistake". The mice answered that if they were making a category mistake, so did Jesus Christ in observing "The poor always ye have with you, but me ye have not always." (John 12 verse 8).

I did my best to convince that the mice would not always be with me at Clapham Junction. With the fox-hunting brigade, I deplore poisoning, so — in the absence of a Clapham mouse-hunt — I tried traps. There are two main brands of

traditional mousetrap: the Little Nipper and the Sentry.

I prefer the Little Nipper, marginally more sensitive. But not sensitive enough for the London mice. Weedy-looking things, skinny, with dandry fur, they got the chocolate ("they prefer this to cheese"), leap back, and never sprang the trap. I was providing mice with free chocolate and aerobic classes.

Regrettably, I resorted to poison. Even here the London mice proved resilient, eating huge quantities, looking a little under the weather, but failing to die. However, if you give them enough, they do die. I shall spare you the awful details. Suffice it to say that poison kept them at bay but never achieved total wipe-out while I never once caught a London mouse in a traditional trap.

Around the same time, I was moving into my Derbyshire house, spending weekends surrounded by green fields. And grey mice. They come in from the fields in autumn and, unless you make them uncomfortable, stay. So do field mice and voles, but I can distinguish these. Your Derbyshire Common Mouse is the same race as your London Mouse but more muscular, and with lustrous fur.

No Derbyshire mouse, you see, ever returns to warn his friends.

I leave further research and analysis to the universities.

Even as I conclude this essay I am aware you may not think I am serious or that I want the universities to take up the challenge. But I am entirely serious. And I do.

They always perish.

The Tory chairmanship is a key job that has often gone to the wrong man, says Peter Riddell

Chairman's charter

John Major is widely expected to appoint Sir Norman Fowler as Tory party chairman in place of Chris Patten. Sir Norman has already adopted the coyne of the about-to-be-anointed. The choice is more important than it may seem. The chairman is one of the few detached advisers to a prime minister, while now, after an election, is the only time when organisational changes can be made to stick. Most party leaders have got the decision wrong.

The chairmanship has been a frustrating post. Birkenhead dismissed Sir George Younger's activities in 1922 as the insubordination of "the cabin boy". Three of Macmillan's chairmen, Lord Hailsham and Butler and Iain Macleod, left unhappy, while Margaret Thatcher worked closely only with Cecil Parkinson of her six party chairmen.

In general, the wrong people have been picked at the wrong time. When the post was created by Balfour in 1911, the aim was to have "an officer of cabinet rank

who should be a member of one of the houses of Parliament, but otherwise have no special parliamentary functions". That sensible principle has often been ignored, while many leaders have regarded the chairmanship as important only ahead of an election and appointed caretakers before then. Party chairmen have been seen as rivals by a prime minister (Lord Butler and Norman Tebbit), have lacked political weight (John Gummer and Peter Brooke) or have been burdened by departmental work (both the latter plus Lord Butler and Macleod). Several have lacked the time or the authority to make necessary internal changes.

Ahead of elections, chairmen have worked against a tight deadline. Mr Tebbit notes in his memoirs *Upwardly Mobile*: "With less

than two years before an election, I decided that there was no time to assess the organisation properly, make any desirable changes and heal the wounds of what might be painful reorganisation." Similarly, in November 1990, Mr Patten had time only for some immediate cost-cutting, plugging obvious gaps and concentrating efforts on critical or marginal seats.

Conservative Central Office was criticised during the campaign, as it invariably is, win or lose, for mis-handling tactics. Presentation was at times confused, partly because of the inexperience of some officials and partly because Mr Patten was distracted by his losing battle at Bath. In the end what mattered was the strategy picked last winter by Mr Patten and Mr Major, focusing on tax, economic competence and leadership.

Sir Norman Fowler looks more a safe pair of hands than an organisational dynamo. But he should avoid many of the obvious pitfalls. He is trusted by the prime minister

(whom he accompanied as a minder during the campaign), he is respected by colleagues for his long ministerial experience, and now on the backbenches, he has no departmental responsibilities. Sir Norman will carry weight and, as his memoirs show, he has a sensible scepticism about the hype of the advertising men.

There are also no obvious alternatives — Michael Heseltine, a possible pre-election chairman, is busy enough as it is. Jeffrey Archer has the energy but has dropped some catches. He will no doubt get his political reward soon. But Sir Norman should beware the view of Lord Young of Graffham, reported to have said in 1987, when unsuccessfully seeking the chairmanship while remaining trade secretary, that since the party had a turnover of only £5 million a year it was worth only one day a week of anyone's time. The next chairman will have to work harder than that if the Tories are to avoid their familiar pre-election anxieties in 1995 or 1996.

Jason Donovan: the truth

Bernard Levin
weighs a pop star
he had never
heard of against
eternity and is
encouraged



Fashion's creature: Donovan has his moment in the spotlight, but is actually being devoured by the forces of a fickle industry

I understand, and am delighted to accept, that Mr Jason Donovan is not a homosexual, much less a homosexual who denies he is one. (Mind you, I am not a homosexual either, but as yet I have not been able to find a jury daft enough to give me a couple of hundred thousand onces.)

When I began to look into this interesting story, I was plunged at once into confusion. I learnt that there was a pop singer called Donovan, and naturally assumed that I had found my man. Experts in these matters, however, assured me that although this Donovan is of course not a homosexual, he is not the man I was seeking. Baffled, I went over the ground again, and with a shout of triumph found our Jason, heterosexual to the tips of his toes in the same millenium.

A tag at my sleeve and a critical look from my mentors, and I realised that I had got it wrong again: Jason is this one's surname, and he is, in full, David Jason. He is, of course, heterosexual. (If there is a homosexual called Smith reading this, he would be pleased to make himself known to the nearest usherette; the least I could do is to shake his hand.)

But even when I got the cast disengaged, and sworn affidavits to the effect that everybody involved in the story was straight as straight could be, I was no nearer full understanding, for the libel against Mr Jason Donovan had been published in a magazine called *The Face*, and I had never heard of either him or it. We journalists are trained to find things out. I have found out that Mr Donovan has made many records of his kind of music, that he has appeared in a Royal Variety Performance, and above all that he had had a part in *The Face* in a recent article about Belfast.

It is the rapid growth of the scene has

plenty of time to surpass even these achievements; he is not yet half way through his twenties, and it is not time for him to weep, like Alexander, because there are no more words to conquer.

I shall come back to him, and my ignorance, in a moment, but for now I must concentrate on *The Face*, the magazine which published the libel. (That, interestingly, led into another channel altogether; many men and women who are homosexual were indignant at what they thought the verdict implied — that homosexuality is in itself shameful and bound to lower those who profess it in the eyes of right-thinking people outside the court there were placards reading "Glad to be Gay" and "Dykes are OK".) How long will it be before there is a libel action which turns on a complaint that the defendant wrongly accused the plaintiff of being sexually orthodox? I bet it has already happened in America.)

Mindful of the importance of primary sources, I bought a copy of *The Face*, which cost £1.60. Much of it is written in a code utterly indecipherable by anyone over, say, 25. This, for instance, from an excellent and well-researched article about Belfast:

It is the rapid growth of the scene has

meant an influx of a more undesirable element, however, and raves at places like Kelly's in Portrush or Circus Circus are full of what are known as "spiders" (as in spidermen), who would once have been wearing snow-washed jeans but are now clad in shell suits and a liberal coating of Vicks.

The magazine's emphasis, of course, is on pop music, but it is crisply and freshly couched, and there is space for another colourful and thorough article about the homeless. (Naturally, it's all the fault of the government.) There are other accolades; an expert in this field reveals that *The Face* "is the magazine that identified Madonna as a cultural icon years before anyone else", and "told the world to wear black ra-ra skirts with Doc Martens". But you get the idea.

Now it is time to draw the threads together. There is nothing wrong with Mr Donovan ("I think I would see myself as a role model") that maturity won't cure, and he may warble to his adoring throng of followers (mostly, it seems, some half a dozen years younger than he) until he retires or is replaced in the affections of a new generation of infant followers by another, identically cloned, warbler. Meanwhile, *The Face*, if it survives the

damages and costs, will continue to lose circulation; at its peak it was 95,000 but is 63,000 now.

Wherein lies the similarity between the libelled performer and the libelling magazine? It is nothing to do with homosexuality, I assure you. It is that both are characteristically ephemeral products of our wretched time, the hallmark of which is that not only devours its idols, but devours the replacement idols ever more rapidly.

Of course, these singers and these publishers of magazines have a joint problem: both must be always replenishing their audiences, as the young grow less young and leave their younger selves behind. But what happens when the tombola stops and different-coloured tickets come out? The only meaning our culture has (and a poor one) is its changeability, which is as inevitable as it is unpredictable; that is what has ruined the circulation of *The Face*. Whether the same will happen to our heterosexual hero, only time will tell; but assuredly he won't be warbling to his young acolytes when he is 50.

There is only one way to settle the argument: the longanistic test. Time makes no claim to pronounce on the sexuality of pop-singers, but is ruthless in its estimation of their songs. Time holds the scales impartially; he watches to see which scale goes down, and asks only one question: is it art? If it is, it will remain; if it does not remain, it is not art.

The pained reply is "We are not making art" (to which the counter-reply is "You're telling us"). There is no real harm in this fly-by-night noise and the people who make it: as I have said before, Gresham's Law does not hold in these matters, because even the most simian noises cannot abolish Mozart. So when we are told that *The Face* was first to identify Madonna as a cultural icon, we tend to ask — I do, anyway — who will be the first to notice that Madonna has disappeared?

It won't matter, for a dozen replicas will by then be jostling for the succession, as — sooner or later — will happen to Mr Donovan. That will not at all mean that his talents have dried up, much less that they were small; only that the whirligig of time brings in his revenges — a phrase which has stood the test of time for some 400 years already, and may go on for another 400 at least. Incidentally, when *The Face* "told the world to wear black ra-ra skirts with Doc Martens", did the world do so? I have a horrible feeling that it did.

Return of Kinnock?

NEIL KINNOCK returns to Westminster today still unsure about his future after he stands down in July, and friends are trying to make his mind up for him. Although he has told close colleagues he has ruled out continuing as a member of the shadow cabinet, some are urging him to reconsider — and hold out the prospect of him becoming shadow secretary of state for Wales.

Kinnock's position is unique. No other leader in recent memory has resigned at the tender age of 50, and friends believe that once he has cast an eye over the political wilderness awaiting him, Kinnock will take little persuading to continue on the front bench. His election by Labour MPs would be virtually guaranteed, and Kinnock has already announced his intention of standing for the party's national executive.

The former leader could be in the Commons for another 20 years, and none of his colleagues wish to see him grow old and bitter on the back benches in the style of Edward Heath. "John Smith might have mixed feelings, but it would surely be better for him to have Kinnock on the inside," says one prominent shadow cabinet member. "The Welsh post is self-contained, and there would be little danger of him treading on the toes of his successor."

The pressure on Kinnock to stand will further complicate the jockeying for front-bench position. Gordon Brown and Robin Cook are both hoping to be rewarded with the shadow chancellorship for their part in Smith's campaign. If Cook fails, he has eyes on the shadow foreign secretary's job, where Gerald Kaufman is expected to stand down.

most MPs are beginning an anxious search for secretarial space at Westminster.

While Betty Boothroyd, Peter Brooke and others fight for the luxurious appurtenances accorded the country's senior commoner, other members will be dancing attendance on Julie Scott-Thomson, who holds the key to the allocation of secretaries' offices.

The secretaries have little say in the matter. All negotiations are carried out between MPs and the redoubtable Scott-Thomson, the "clerk in charge" under the Serjeant-at-Arms. In the past members have tried to woo the holder of the post with bouquets, chocolates, scent and plain flattery. Scott-Thomson is having none of it. "There are definite guidelines. We have to be seen to be fair and I stick by the rules."

The Tory MP David Amess, however, who worked for nine years in a converted broom cupboard, now has his secretary comfortably installed next door to a rather grander retreat he has obtained overlooking the river. For the victor of Basildon, it seems, anything is possible.

Baize barricade

GENTLEMEN members of most London clubs may have grown used to glimpsing ladies in the dining room and passing them on the stairs but even in the most liberal-minded club the snooker room remains a male preserve. None of the 16 clubs participating in the London Clubs Snooker Competition, launched this week, plans to field a female contestant.

Neither are clubs allowed to import players in pursuit of Jimmy White-style maximum breaks. "Sympathetic sources in the campaign" said the LSC graduate yesterday. Forming a completely new regime is never easy, but Madwall is eager to exploit the diplomatic skills he has picked up after eight years in Britain as foreign minister, perhaps.

Lady's chamber

LACKING the opulent expense of the Speaker's chamber, whose

incumbent will be chosen today.

The RAC has been drawn

against the Carlton, which has just reinstated its snooker table in a basement room after the bomb damage last year.



BACK TO THE 11-PLUS

A secondary education system is either "comprehensive" or it is divided into different types of school. If it is divided, admission to the more desirable schools means pupils being selected by those schools, preferably by objective examination. Individual parents may put schools under pressure to expand to take more pupils, but schools will do this only up to a point. To pretend that the selective opt-out structure emerging as government policy has anything to do with parental choice is a deception. It is a return to the system prior to 1965. While parents may notionally choose their preferred comprehensive school and appeal against a rejection, selection is objective. It has nothing to do with choice, as any parent of a rejected child will know. All else is double-talk.

Now that the election is over and a new education secretary, John Patten, is in place, the government must say whether it really envisages countywide selection at 11. The 219 opt-out, or grant-maintained, schools so far have mostly done so to benefit from bigger grants. They are now being allowed to "change their character", code for becoming selective, and roughly a third are in the process of doing so. A school in West Yorkshire has formally declared itself a grammar school. Wandsworth has indicated that all its secondary schools are to become selective from 11. As many as 2,000 secondary schools are now considering opting out — or "opting in" to Whitehall-aided status — both to get bigger grants and to choose their own pupils. Many councils are facing up to half their schools opting out, at which point a planned local school service is barely viable, and a chaos of soaring or plummeting school numbers and parental litigation will doubtless ensue.

Most countries and most children in Britain experience selection at some stage of their education. The question faced by reformers in the 1950s and 60s was, first, how late could this be postponed to keep every child's options open without holding back brighter pupils; and, second, how far could flexibility between institutions be maintained. Even under the tripartite system laid down in 1944, grammar, technical and secondary modern schools were intended to be grouped together on one campus.

The ills of the system that emerged from the 1965 comprehensive reorganisation were partly ideological, partly institutional. Educational theory at the time was anti-academic and discredited much of education

in parental eyes. Also a fixation with big schools meant the suppression of many sound grammar schools that could have formed "senior high" or sixth-form colleges, based on postponed selection at 15 or 16. The "all-through" comprehensive was (wrongly) recommended by government.

The structure that appears, somewhat confusedly, to be emerging under the present government implies a reversion to the old system, with a public examination divide at the end of the primary stage. There will be the added rigidity that children rejected for admission by opt-out schools will find themselves more fiercely downgraded to what will become a "third class" of British education, the local council schools, trailing after private and grant maintained ones. Money given directly by Whitehall to the opt-out schools is already far in excess of what local councils can afford per head. Here is a de facto education voucher system, but a grossly unequal one.

This approach to secondary education is a radical change and has nothing to do with parental choice. It implies a more or less final divergence in pupil aptitude discernible by testing at the age of 11. This time round, Mr Patten and his colleagues should at least avoid such phrases as "equal but different" schools for "equal but different" children, much in vogue in the 1940s. Instead he should explain why 11 is the right age for selection, rather than 13 or 16. His new system may attract many middle-class parents back into the state system. But it must degrade the education of those rejected.

These rejects, whether in under-financed council schools or in voucher-financed urban Dotheboys Halls, will once again be identified by all and sundry as a poorly educated underclass and the cause of Britain's skills shortage. Councils such as Cambridgeshire are hoping to get rid of all their secondary schools. Even Westminster, faced with half its schools opting out, does not know which way the government wants it to turn.

The reintroduction of 11-plus selection is a hugely significant policy, the direct result of the government's attempted "nationalisation" of secondary schooling in England and Wales. Of all the options for state secondary school reform it is probably the worst, and certainly a colossal gamble. It appeared nowhere in the Tory manifesto, and should not come about by stealth or terminological confusion. Mr Patten should say clearly whether he believes in it or not.

TRIBAL TURMOIL

Ahmad Shah Masood proved his skills as a guerrilla commander with the disciplined and virtually bloodless capture of Kabul from government forces on Saturday. But any hopes that Afghanistan's 14-year-old civil war could be brought to a swift end were short-lived. Street-to-street fighting now threatens the capital with bloodshed, as the Pashtun forces of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the fundamentalist leader of Hezb-i-Islami, belatedly try to carry out their threat to occupy the city. Afghanistan is reverting to its old pattern of continuous warfare between chieftains of rival clans.

The anger and frustration of the Hezb fighters has been aggravated by the realisation that they have been outmanoeuvred by the six other Mujahidin groups that have formed a loose coalition and installed an interim government under the nominal leadership of Sibghatullah Mujahidi, a moderate backed by Mr Masood and the Jamiat-i-Islami. Mr Hekmatyar is now trying to sabotage the agreement he refused to sign with his forces shooting wildly at civilians and former Mujahidin colleagues.

The fighting leaves in tatters the noble but naive United Nations plan for an interim government, followed by elections. It was based on the assumption that the squabbling leaders of the Mujahidin factions in Pakistan could control the commanders in the field, who have fought in the mountains for over a decade. The UN and the West may now be tempted to throw their weight behind Mr Masood. He is preferable to Mr Hekmatyar. Well educated and so far magnanimous in avoiding retribution in Kabul for the city's support for the communists, he has been able to restrain his own fighters. As a

member himself of a minority tribe, he knows that Afghanistan's patchwork of ethnic differences means that no government will last unless it lets tribal elders rebuild civilian life in the ruined country.

The same cannot be said for Mr Hekmatyar. He is a hardliner who combines Islamic zeal with the arrogant assumption that the Pashtuns, numbering around 40 per cent of the population, should rule in Afghanistan as they have for the past 250 years. He not only regards the West as an enemy but is likely to repeat the worst abuses brought to Iran by Khomeini. His rejection of any accord with the other Mujahidin was based on his confidence that his faction could fight on and win. He was even ready to deal with the former communists. But he may have miscalculated. The Americans saw at least two years ago where his ideology was leading him. Even Pakistan has begun to distance itself from him.

Yet outside backing for Mr Masood will only prolong the war. Foreigners, notably Russians, exacerbated the war in Afghanistan. They have left behind a huge arsenal of weapons and a population that has made warfare a way of life. Encouraging any one faction against another would give its rivals a spurious claim to be the true Islamic patriots fighting off the designs of the infidel. Petty chieftains would see themselves as the heroes of centuries ago, while moderates would be tainted with collusion. No outside nation has ever meddled in Afghanistan without suffering a cruel defeat. The United Nations negotiated the Russian exit. Its job is now done. The world has no business in that country's tribal disputes and blood feuds. Of those, there are certainly many yet to come.

DASH THEIR WIGS!

Does wearing half a pound of permanently waved white horse hair on his or her head, in the style made fashionable at the court of Louis XIV three centuries ago, add a millimetre to the majesty of a judge or the authority of a barrister? This prickly old question is about to be asked again, as it has been at intervals at least since the time of Trollope and Dickens, but this time by no less a figure than the new Lord Chief Justice.

On the first day of the new legal term tomorrow, the judges of the Commercial Court will vote on whether to end the wearing of wigs in their court. If they accept the submissions made by the Commercial Bar Association to abolish wigs, the rest of the High Court may follow their example. Wigs are already not worn in the matrimonial courts, where they are deemed inappropriate to delicate domestic topics. In the highest court in the land, the law lords maintain their dignity in dark suits. If the wig is a necessary finial of the English legal system, it should be worn on top of legal heads in every court, from the House of Lords to magistrates' courts.

Commonwealth countries such as Canada, India and the West Indies, which inherited English law, now manage perfectly well without wigs. In Commonwealth countries where the wig is retained, it looks even odder than in England, where it is at least a relic of the normal wear for pink and pasty-faced gentlemen in the reign of Queen Anne.

The English may love tradition and dressing up. English law, more than Roman and other systems, is based on case law and precedent, on not tampering with what worked in the past. But unlike Beefeaters at the Tower of London and Guards at Buckingham Palace, barristers are not an arm of the tourist board. There can be good reasons for wearing a uniform. Policemen, the armed services, traffic wardens and ticket inspectors need some conspicuous identification, if only to distinguish them from impostors. The Speaker and clerks of the House of Commons wear wigs, presumably to avoid their being mistaken for Members of Parliament. Academics and heads of schools wear gowns as emblems of authority (mortar-boards and women's academic caps are almost as absurd as wigs).

The wig is supposed to convey gravitas to a judge and to a barrister a kind of impersonal anonymity. But just as the cowl does not make the monk, the wig does not make the law. A good lawyer needs no wig to make his case; the incompetence of a bad lawyer cannot be concealed beneath a wig a foot high. In their antique Latin jargon lawyers have a maxim, *Lex neminem cogit ad vanam seu inutilia peragenda*: "The law forces no one to do vain or useless things." The lawyer's wig has become a vain and useless thing, getting between the customer and the law of the land. Lawyers' Latin may survive a little longer. But the wigs should go now.

Questionable aspects of British economic recovery

From Dr John Adams

Sir, The economic recovery promoted by Sir Allen Sheppard and his friends (letter, April 23) might be likened to a hot air balloon in which the lift is provided by the breath of the men in the basket.

What do they mean by "recovery" — a return to "normal growth" in the economy of 3 per cent per year? Another doubling of the traffic on our roads in 30 years? One can appreciate why the signatories whose jobs depend on building roads or making cars might welcome that. Another doubling of the number of tourists in 15 years? One can understand why the hoteliers on the list might sign up for that. It is less obvious what United Biscuits expects of us.

The spirit of enterprise they invoke is myopic. In developed world the entrepreneurs' balloon bobs up and down, on an ever-rising trajectory. Obvious to the signs of planetary stress that Prince Charles, in a report on the same day, invited the world to address, they huff and they puff — with determination, boldness, optimism and confidence.

As they rise ever higher, through the ozone hole and the roof of the greenhouse, the local symptoms of planetary stress, like Twyford Down and Oxeas Wood, become mere specks. Yours sincerely, JOHN ADAMS, University College London, Geography Department, 26 Bedford Way, WC1. April 23.

From Mr Ian Bryant

Sir, You are being less than fair to the Treasury when you accuse it of being over-cautious (leading article, April 24). At long last we can see the "green shoots of recovery", previously only visible through politicians' rose-tinted specs. The recent election result is probably all that is needed to switch the economy to gentle, sustainable growth.

Of course the Treasury got it all wrong in 1988, but so did almost all the City number-crunchers and gurus of academe. Having just struggled through the resulting mega-boom and bust, the last thing we need is to be set on course for another one.

Before interest rates fall further, limited credit controls must be introduced to ensure that this time the recovery is built on something

more substantial than the over-borrowing of the late Eighties: mortgage limits back to three times one salary, 2½ times joint salaries, to a 90 per cent maximum of the property's value; increases to existing mortgages solely for substantial improvements to the property; minimum hire-purchase deposits; faster credit-card repayments; personal loans limited to a percentage of income.

ment will continue to rise to almost three million, seasonally adjusted of course, by the year's end.

That means there are at least three million who will not have the income to spend in hotels, pubs, clubs and restaurants or on homes, electrical goods, air travel and even books. Perhaps the industrialists' companies and service-sector industries can do without those customers.

Yours faithfully, K. P. J. ARMITAGE, 29 Stoneham Close, Petersfield, Hampshire. April 23.

From the Director General of the Chemical Industries Association

Sir, A new parliamentary term in Britain, closely followed by UK presidency of the EC Council of Ministers, ought to be marked by vision. Within that we must surely recognise the importance of technology in solving pressing environmental problems and helping create prosperity and influence in a changing world.

Education policy, which rightly featured in all the party manifestos, must encourage a cultural shift to embrace manufacturing and commerce.

Helped by strong advocacy from industry and government, along with an educated presentation in the media, we have an opportunity to be internationally successful as a manufacturing nation. Shall we grasp it?

Yours faithfully, JOHN C. L. COX, Director General, Chemical Industries Association, Kings Buildings, Smith Square, SW1. April 24.

From Mr Kenneth P. Armitage

Sir, I am delighted for the 41 leading industrialists who can now look "with boldness and determination" to making "recovery and a self-fulfilling prophecy". No doubt they can feel secure in their lofty empires, knowing that financial freedom means they can purchase whatever they wish.

But what about the hundreds of thousands, millions in fact, who now find themselves in an economic swamp because they have lost their livelihoods through redundancies brought about by high interest rates and short-term measures to reduce costs and overheads? Even the British Chambers of Commerce say (report, April 23) that unemploy-

ment in North America. [Robert Harris] was also allowed to have the last word."

It had been enough that poor old Canada has become a forgotten land in the minds of its British cousins. However, to see *The Times*, particularly given its own historic connections with Canada, link the country to the wretched experience of the United States saddens me. Canada hid itself in the barbarity of capital punishment in 1976.

Yours faithfully, MARK HESLTINE, 3 Park Mansions, 46 Howards Lane, SW15. April 23.

From Mr George Reith

Sir, "Revenge by the mob", you call it. I regard such a phrase as arrogant impudence.

In other contexts the "mob" becomes the "electorate" or "customers". Your ignorance on the fundamental politico-economic basis of law is appalling.

Yours etc., GEORGE REITH, 4 Bridgend, Llugon, Dalkeith, Midlothian.

From Mrs Jane Parsons

Sir, My daughters aged four and six every day hear their mother's mealtime instruction to "sit down", followed seconds later by "and for heaven's sake, sit up".

Yours faithfully, JANE PARSONS, Southfields, Long Crendon Road, Thame, Oxfordshire. April 23.

From Mr W. E. Matthews

Sir, Having explained to French visitors that we cut down diseased trees, they were puzzled when we told them that we then cut them up.

Yours faithfully, W. E. MATTHEWS (Managing Director, Southern Tree Surgeons Ltd., Crawley Down, West Sussex. April 24.

From Mr Dominic E. Walsh

Sir, A pair of gloves I can cope with; but do we really need our trousers, shorts, knickers and scissors to come in pairs?

Yours faithfully, D. WALSH, Kelvin, Camden Road, Caversham, Berkshire. April 23.

From Mr Michael P. Walters

Sir, Sometimes apparently synonymous expressions have opposite meanings, e.g. "out of this world" and "like nothing on earth".

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL P. WALTERS, 5 Cambrian Road, Richmond, Surrey. April 23.

Business letters, page 17

porary alternative accommodation in a variety of buildings across the city.

Discussions about the rehabilitation of the old headquarters are just beginning and will probably last for years as the city government of Brussels and the national governments of France and Germany vie with each other to house the present and future offices of all the European institutions.

This is obviously the time for the British government to put the case for Canary Wharf. The advantages that an invading army of Eurocrats would impart to the economy of the Côte de Londres are plain for all to see. The looming presence of the Tower of London would serve as an appropriate deterrent to those European officials who fail to tell the difference between a genuine single market and an artificial federalism.

In exchange for the occupation of Canary Wharf, the government could set the seal on the British presidency by granting extra-territorial status to the area, thus providing for a truly permanent European presence in Britain.

Yours faithfully, JULIAN PALESON, 227 rue de la Loi, B-1040 Brussels. April 22.

Population trends an explosive issue

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, On population growth there is worse news and better news than Nigel Hawkes proposes ("Is it standing room only?", April 23). The annual increase will not start to fall much before 2010. The decline in fertility rates has itself declined in recent years, causing the year 2100 projection to be revised from 11.3 billion people to 11.6 billion — more than "another United States".

From 1950 to 1984 there was a 2.6-fold increase in world grain output, raising per capita consumption by more than one third. But from 1985 to 1991 there has been far less annual increase even though the period has seen the world's farmers investing billions of dollars to expand harvests at a time of rising grain prices. During these seven lean years world population has increased by almost 13 per cent (600 million people) but grain output per person has declined by nearly 7 per cent.

As for the better news, we could reduce the eventual global total by at least two billion people simply by meeting the needs of some 300 million women in developing countries who apparently possess motivation for family planning but lack birth-control facilities.

Overall family-planning needs will increase as more enter their reproductive years, and the contribution of the developed nations, which now assign little more than 1 per cent of foreign aid to population issues, will have to expand seven times by 2000.

Thailand has shown what can be achieved. It has reduced family size from more than six children in 1969 to two today, i.e., to replacement rate. There is similar scope in a host of countries.

Yours truly, NORMAN MYERS (Consultant in environmental development, Upper Meadow, Old Road, Headington, Oxford. April 23.

From Mr Andrew Bradford

Sir, Population growth in the developed world was achieved with heavy dependence on the undeveloped world. Similar growth there has no such prop.

As a country with a high but stable population we consume many times more of Earth's finite resources than individuals from the undeveloped countries.

The fact that child benefit is paid on each child is symbolic to the rest of the world that we have not even begun to address the problem. I suggest we restrict benefit to the first two children of each mother (not each marriage) as a preliminary step.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW BRADFORD, Kincardine, Kincardine O'Neil, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. April 23.

Trappings of English

From Mrs S. J. Kovler

Sir, Mr Adler (letter, April 23) describes some of the vagaries of the English language. Last week I had to explain to my Israeli daughter-in-law that my baby grandson has learned to sit up, not to sit down.

Yours sincerely, S. J. KOVLER, 23 The Rise, Edgware, Middlesex. April 23.

From Mrs Jane Parsons

Sir, My daughters aged four and six every day hear their mother's mealtime instruction to "sit down", followed seconds later by "and for heaven's sake, sit up".

OBITUARIES

JULIAN AMYES

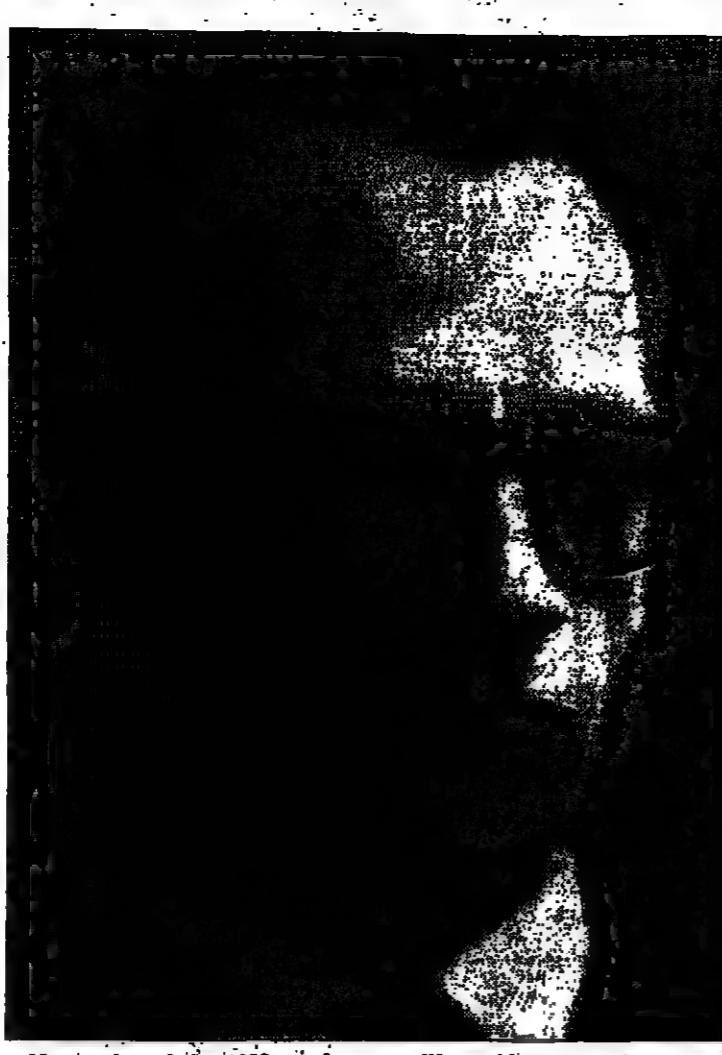
Julian Amyes, television drama director, died yesterday aged 74. He was born on August 9, 1917.

THE work of Julian Amyes was always highly professional, and in technical terms he was a true perfectionist. He was also a kind and quiet man, and in the words of one of his former colleagues at the BBC "He was the nicest man I ever worked with, and his kindness and good humour may be two of the reasons why he isn't remembered as well as he deserved to be."

Another reason must be his concern for drama that was mainstream rather than provocative and revolutionary, and he was never associated with the school of the Angry Young Men. He directed television productions of plays by Terence Rattigan, Edward Albee, and Christopher Fry, and worked on adaptations of classic English novels, including *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Jane Eyre*. "That's the way I am," he admitted. "You can't change yourself to order, and the things you like are the things you do best. What I've enjoyed most of all is classical series. I just can't help it." Which explains why, at a time of "revolutionary" drama, both in the theatre and in television, Julian Amyes and his oeuvre have tended to be ignored.

He was born in Cambridge, the son of a schoolmaster, and it was in Cambridge that he went to school and later to university. He originally chose classics as the subject of his degree but he soon changed his mind and preferred English, a decision which fairly reflected his passion for the written and spoken word. It was at Cambridge that he first developed his practical interest in English drama, becoming president of the University Mummers, a society which was alone in allowing female undergraduates to become members.

His close relationship with drama in all its forms continued until his death, and in the last years of his life he could often be seen in his wheelchair at the back of the Lyttelton and Olivier theatres.



He graduated in 1939, a few weeks before the outbreak of the second world war, at the age of 22. Because of his poor sight he was graded C3 at his army medical examination, and his conscription was postponed. This gave him the opportunity to work professionally in the theatre, for a weekly repertory company based at Frinton-on-Sea, where his earliest appearances included *Pygmalion* and Robert Morley's *Goodness-How-Sad*. He later reflected: "By this time I knew that

the Lebanon, and had become a temporary major before his demobilisation in 1946, when he happily returned to the theatre as an actor, playing at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon, and for the Birmingham Repertory Company. "I always seemed to be cast as old men, like Duncan in *Macbeth*."

By 1951 he had also developed a keen interest in television drama which in those days of its infancy was, like the theatre, a live medium. He applied to attend a trainee directors' course at the BBC. He was accepted, his course was successful, and he was offered a five-year contract with the BBC drama department. So began a career in television which lasted until 1991.

The early 1950s were an exciting pioneer period for BBC television drama, with Michael Barry as the head of the department and Donald Wilson — who wrote the scripts for *The Forsyte Saga* — as the script supervisor. Julian Amyes's first television assignment was Andrew Crickshank's *The Prisoner* and his later work included many original productions whose scripts were written for television. Among these was the series *The Course of Justice*, a dramatisation by Duncan Ross of various court procedures, from those of the local magistrate to the High Court. This was described by one television critic as: "The most realistic series I have ever seen."

In 1952 Amyes directed the thriller *Dial M for Murder* by Frederick Knott, which later became a success on the West End stage and was made into a feature film. Another of his assignments was *The Hostages*, an adaptation by Nigel Kneale of the novel by John Buchan.

His first BBC contract ended in 1956 and he spent most of the next two years in feature films. He worked on Michael Caine's first film, *A Hill in Korea*, and then on *Miracle in Soho*, which was written and produced by Emeric Pressburger. This was not a particularly happy time for Julian Amyes.

He felt that the film business did not

really suit him and he seemed to have to spend far too much of his time reading and rejecting bad scripts. For him the atmosphere of television was an altogether happier one where he felt he had much greater creative freedom.

He returned to television, to Granada for two years, and then went back briefly to the BBC where he directed Donald Wilson's series *No Wreath for the General*. In 1963 Granada appointed him as its head of programmes in Manchester and he stayed with the company until he was 60. The 1960s were a golden age for Granada, led by Sidney Bernstein and Denis Forman. *Coronation Street* began in 1960 and *World in Action*, in 1963. Denis Mitchell and Norman Swallow headed a team of documentary makers, and Philip Mackie wrote a six-part drama series, *The Caesars*.

He was fortunate that in the Lytton/Le Gauze agreement we had a clear political directive, Irvine's cooperation with our Free French counterparts, in whom most of the executive civilian control was vested, meant that during those two years the DSO policy of no executions and humane interment could achieve the civilian peace that the fighting forces in the Eastern Mediterranean needed in that vital area with its long frontier with neutral Turkey.

A short précis of these years, ending in the Normandy landings in which DSO, Syria, played an important role, was communicated.

APPRECIATIONS

Irvine Gray

MAY 1, as Major Irvine Gray's immediate superior from June 1942 to August 1944, add to your obituary (April 15). During these two years Irvine and Captain (as he then was) Maurice Oldfield dealt with the questioning of political internees and enemy agents on behalf of the Defence Security Office (DSO), Syria, a counter-intelligence organisation which had responsibilities in both Syria and the Lebanon.

We were fortunate that in the Lytton/Le Gauze agreement we had a clear political directive, Irvine's cooperation with our Free French counterparts, in whom most of the executive civilian control was vested, meant that during those two years the DSO policy of no executions and humane interment could achieve the civilian peace that the fighting forces in the Eastern Mediterranean needed in that vital area with its long frontier with neutral Turkey.

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One of the most significant publications for publication in 1989 in the authorised history of the Intelligence Corps but which, for security reasons, has not yet been published. Now would be the time, before more of those who can speak or write from personal experience have passed on.

I cannot remember during those two years Irvine or, except in very special circumstances, any of the staff walking or travelling armed in the cities or countryside of Syria and the Lebanon. So far as Irvine was concerned his integrity made such protection unnecessary.

Monty Trehawen

national settlement on the site of the federal capital, and identified some necessary domestic areas with modern public sites, including parliament.

He followed up this Swieorean satire when the Australian Capital Territory adopted new motor car registration letters, all beginning with a capital 'Y', by asking in a letter to the editor "Who would have the number plate YAHOO!"

One always thought of Patrick in association with Sarah, an elegant woman who was an accomplished "diplomatic" wife and hostess, but who did not in the least mind roughing it in a shack on the New South Wales coast, cooking over a camp fire or, later, running a stall in the Portobello Road.

Patrick's distinguished career owed a good deal to Sarah, who had shared his latter years in China, including a siege, and who thereafter organised a household in which Patrick could write his books.

Professor F. J. West

tended by (inter alios) Professor John Herrington and myself. Time and again our attempts at translating the Greek failed to satisfy the exacting Zuntzian standards of idiomatic English.

My family one summer rented Zuntz's house at Chinnery and were provided with a closely-typed sheet of instructions of Sphinxian impenetrability. Would I had kept it! Those scholars who were not deterred by the professor's abrasiveness derived much benefit from his well stocked mind and his generosity especially to young scholars.

H. H. Harpley

April 27 ON THIS DAY 1951



The style is unmistakable that of Peter Fleming, a regular contributor to the fourth leader, and never at a loss when it came to the lighter side of service life.

PLUCKY LITTLE BLUELAND

To week-end holidaymakers they are others of courtesy, perhaps of compassion. What are they up to, those little gaggles of khaki figures deployed inconspicuously in the Sunday morning sunshine? What impels them to climb up that steep hill, trailing their mackintoshes and map-cases behind them? What is it, when they have reached the summit, that they can so earnestly through their binoculars? What wild surmise agitates the shooting sticks with which these stout Cortezes point out to each other who can say what characteristics of the panorama before them? The explanation of their mysterious behaviour is not unduly reconcile. These homunculi are on the skyline are officers of the Territorial Army, engaged upon a TEWT.

A TEWT, though it sounds both plaintive and puny, is in some respects a most elaborate affair. It means tactical exercise without troops, and is not to be confused with a JEW, which signifies to our brave lads limbering up for Burns on the arid plains of Central India, a jungle exercise without trees. Its designation suggests that it is a pif after, but in fact there is no such thing in the army glossary as a TE, and it is now generally understood that all tactical exercises are carried out without troops.

But there are, of course, plenty of imaginary troops. The vast majority are invariably hostile, but oddly enough these scarcely give the week-end tactician a moment's

unrest. As he gazes through his field-glasses at cows fording the brook which for the purpose of this exercise represents a river 600 yards across, he is not cowed by the thought of the Redland hordes poised for aggression on the farther bank.

The gallant defenders of Blueland are, except in the matter of mobile bath units, inferior to their adversaries at every point. Unfortunately, he is expected to know a good deal about Bluelanders, for it is not for the purposes of this exercise commanding the 1001st Indian Brigade of the 88th Blueland Division?

The tactician and his colleagues must find the right dispositions to meet as best they can the headlong onrush of the Redlanders. They must provide these national warriors with killing-grounds, fields of fire and a water supply, and at the end of the morning, be prepared to defend the positions they have selected against the criticisms of the Directing Staff. It is a delicate task, and many an officer, scratching his rather elderly head trying to remember the proper use of smoke bombs to high explosive in a modern mortar section, is tempted to follow the cows across that vast imaginary river and join with the Redland army where there is plenty of everything and they do not seem to worry about the precise site of the regimental aid post.

At last the ordeal is over, and all who attended the TEWT — even those who invariably disagreed with their syndicate and insisted on putting in a minority report — are now united by a common bond. All agree that the tactical solution propounded by the Directing Staff exhibits in their superior officers that lack of enterprise, of imagination and indeed of a grasp of the elementary principles of warfare which has long been the curse of the British army.

Henry Whyte

Christian duty to spread the good news, lovingly

One thing is certain about the current Decade of Evangelism. It is controversial. The first area of controversy is whether the Decade of Evangelism should be happening at all. Some give it unqualified support while others say that what is needed is a decade of renewal in which Christians can rediscover their faith and be strengthened in it. The word evangelism should be dropped because it is unhelpful.

There is a danger of polarisation here. However, it is not a case of either/or but both/and. Emil Brunner's words are relevant that "the church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning". So the renewal of the church means that it will be revitalised in its evangelistic task as well as in other ways. At the same time all the evangelism in the world will be largely ineffective if the church is not also renewed in other aspects of its life. New Christians need the warmth of welcoming churches just as a live coal needs others to keep on burning.

What is evangelism? For some the immediate answer is Billy Graham, mass rallies and earnest people with

large Bibles. Such an answer may be understandable but it illustrates the need for fresh thinking about the subject. The word itself is widely misunderstood and one reason is that particular methods are often confused with its primary meaning.

Even in the churches there are those who are unaware that evangelism means the announcement of good news. The content of this good news, the gospel, is about Jesus Christ and what He has done, particularly through His sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection.

This is the message of the apostles and it is the church's joyful task to make it known in every generation. We are in fact in the 197th decade of evangelism. However, it is because some parts of the Christian church have become so inward looking that the calling of a special Decade of Evangelism is now so timely. The statistics show unmistakably that while the churches in Western Europe have been in long-term overall decline those in many other parts of the world are growing with great vigour. In such growing churches the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed is regarded

as a normal and natural part of the life of the Christian community. We have much to learn from them.

As the Decade of Evangelism continues, another matter of controversy will be the question whether Christians should avoid anything and everything which may disturb other people. Concerns have already been expressed about insensitive approaches and the targeting of particular groups of people.

Those who emphasise the Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples sometimes forget the second Great Commandment to love one's neighbour as oneself. Jesus Himself brought both together and as He went around announcing the good news of the kingdom of God He did so with love and sensitivity. He was flexible in His approach, responded to different people according to their particular needs and never badgered those who did not want to listen to Him or receive what He had to give.

However that is only one side of the coin. The other is that Jesus had some very direct and startling things to say about Himself. He claimed to

be and to bring a new revelation of God and of the utmost importance. He issued a clear call and sometimes an uncompromising challenge to follow Him. The result was that while some accepted His teaching and believed in Him others did not and there were varying responses to Him. The apostles met with similar differing responses as they made known the message of Christ and sometimes much hostility.

The question arises: is it actually possible for Christians to make known their message without the possibility that it may disturb others? The answer is no but that is never an excuse for insensitive or inappropriate evangelism. Unloving evangelism that shows little respect for others is always a contradiction in terms and Christians have much to repeat of in this area. However, the remedy for past mistakes is not to try to avoid everything that might possibly upset others. Such a policy is one which says, in effect, that there is nothing distinctive about the Christian message.

There is a lot of hard work to be done by Christians in these and other areas of controversy. Such work will require fresh study of the Scriptures and much prayerful reflection which is then turned into action.

There are some signs that this process is slowly gathering momentum. It is important that it should do so and at local as well as at national level. For as Kenneth Latourette writes in his book on *The First Five Centuries*: "The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession or made it a major part of their occupation, but men and women who carried on their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith to those they met in this natural fashion".

If an increasing number of Christians grasp the possibilities of this Decade of Evangelism and are ready to grapple humbly and courageously with its inherent tensions then the closing years of this century could be a time of good news in this land in more ways than one.

The writer is Vicar of St Paul's, Kingston Hill and an associate church growth teacher with the Bible Society.

Judges asked about bare-headed justice

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Justice Taylor, who will be sworn in today as the new Lord Chief Justice, is expected to seek the views of the judges on whether they should abandon wigs as a first step towards his goal of a "user-friendly judiciary".

Such a move by Sir Peter to tackle the controversial issue dividing the judiciary coincides with a debate tomorrow by the commercial court judges on whether they should stop wearing their

horsehair head dress. If, as expected, the commercial court judges agree to break with the 200-year-old tradition, then the High Court judges in other divisions are likely to be consulted, as well as the Council of Circuit Judges.

The Lord Chancellor's department said: "The commercial judges don't want to go out on a limb and act unilaterally."

Sir Peter has already spo-

ken publicly in favour of discarding wigs. In a BBC interview last year in 1991, he said: "I believe that at a stroke we could disarm a good deal of public misunderstanding of the legal profession if we stopped wearing wigs and gowns in court."

There is strong support for abandoning wigs among judges and barristers in the commercial court, although some older judges in other divisions are firmly against.

Mr Justice Johnson, a family division judge, said any change should be considered carefully. Different considerations might apply for different courts: most of the family division work was done in chambers where judges and counsel do not wear wigs and gowns anyway and their dignity had not suffered.

But he added: "In Australia in some family cases, having been extremely informal, they have now brought back wigs and gowns."

Sir Frederick Lawton, a former Court of Appeal judge, said he could see no reason for change. "Wigs make people appear more anonymous and shed their own personalities to take on the forms of justice."

He admitted that in the summer wigs could "become unbearable. In the Court of Appeal we frequently removed them if it got hot."

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, former Lord Chancellor, said wigs were a "matter of the utmost unimportance. All courts in any country have some sort of uniform which no-one in their right minds would have invented, but have been dictated by tradition."

The commercial Bar, which set the ball rolling, remains unrepentant. Judge Cook, a circuit judge, said he thought many circuit judges would support discarding wigs, certainly for civil work.

"I spend all my time in court, and if it is open court, we have wigs and gowns, and if it is a chambers hearing, we take them off. We are all the same people, it seems completely illogical."

For women counsel, the wearing of men's wigs was "ridiculous", he added. "You may get a coiffured hairstyle with a cheeky little wig perched on top — very fetching but quite ridiculous, and adding nothing to the dignity of the court."

Leading article, page 11
Passing sentence,
L&T section page 5

IMF ready, page 7

Lord St John, page 10

Chernobyl cover-up outrages Russia

Continued from page 1 citizens found themselves instantly cured, without treatment and without medicine," according to Miss Yaroshinskaya. It is as though, she notes, the authorities were to combat the present shortage of medicine by decreeing that the "normal" temperature was not 36.6 degrees, but 38, or in exceptional cases, 39". The change in definition, she insists, meant that only 166,000 people were declared in need of evacuation, rather than ten times that number.

"Lie No 2" concerned contamination of food. On August 22, the politburo commission agreed that contaminated meat should be stored in the state reserve. An appendix to the document states that 10,000 tonnes of such meat is already in store, and another 30,000 will be

added by the end of the year. It continues: "In order to prevent a large accumulation of radiation in the organism of people from the consumption of contaminated food products, the USSR ministry of health recommends that the contaminated meat should be distributed as far as possible across the country and used in the production of salami, and other meat products in the ratio of one part to ten of normal meat." To ensure that the ratio was observed, meat was only to be processed outside the affected republics and no such meat was to be used in Moscow.

Soviet reporters were taken on visits and instructed to write "about how life is continuing as normal" and how priority was being given to the health of people in the affected areas.

IMF ready, page 7

Backing for Boothroyd

Continued from page 1 new Tory intake would support Mr Brooke because they would know more about him than the other candidates who had had less recent media coverage. But Mr Brooke also has his enemies and in a straight contest with Miss Boothroyd, some Tories might vote for her.

Tory MP Sir Teddy Taylor, speaking in his Southend East constituency yesterday, said: "It should be obvious to every MP that Betty Boothroyd is the outstanding candidate."

Miss Boothroyd's election will be seconded by Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich. The chair will be taken by Sir

Edward Heath, as Father of the House, the MP with the longest unbroken service. He will have no vote unless a casting vote is required. But he will have a crucial role in deciding which candidate is nominated first. Sir Edward would call for one of them to be proposed on a motion. After that candidate had been discussed, there would be an amendment putting forward the second candidate, a second discussion and a vote. If the amendment failed, there would be another, going through all the candidates, returning to the original motion if none of the amendments was carried.

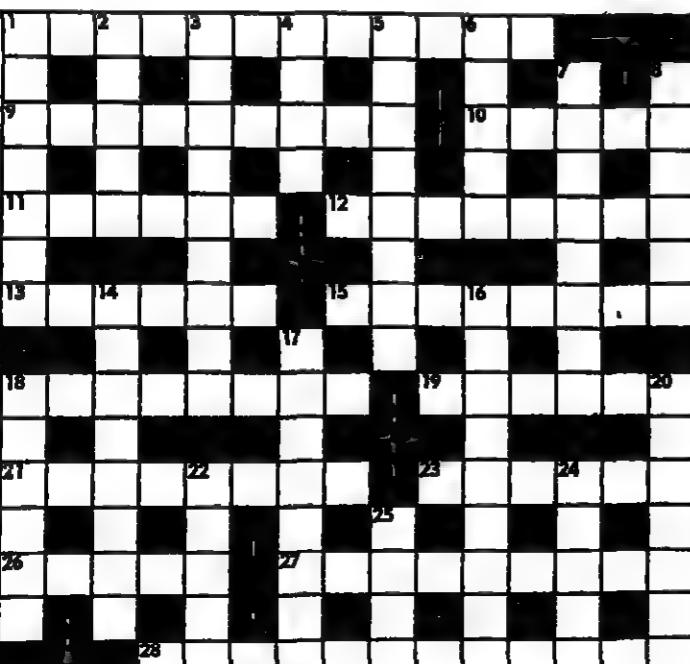
Lord St John, page 10



Counting blessings: Aleksei II, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, performing the Orthodox Easter service at the Epiphany Cathedral in Moscow yesterday as thousands flocked to churches across Russia to celebrate the first Easter since the collapse of Soviet communism (writes Bruce Clark). The patriarch was shown on television blessing mem-

bers of the Russian leadership, including Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoi and Valeri Zorkin, chairman of the constitutional court. Television also provided live transmission of the four-hour Easter service from Moscow as well as coverage of services from the capitals of Bulgaria and Romania. In Sergiev Posad, formerly Zagorsk, the Cathedral of the Dormition was crammed with pilgrims, many of whom had waited for hours perched on tiny folding chairs for the service to begin. The town has a special meaning for Russians during the current upheavals because of its association with the 14th-century St Sergius of Radonezh, who inspired the defeat of Russia's Mongol overlords. Easter celebration, page 7

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,903



WORD WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard
NAUTICALS

- 28 Fern gardens due to get redesigned (6,6).
- 1 Charged as proposed in a legal document (7).
- 2 Concerned with being among the few (5).
- 3 One jogging without a rest (9).
- 4 A burden shouldered by Americans (4).
- 5 Tenor air composed by prior (8).
- 6 Uniform helps to dispel some qualms (5).
- 7 The result of a summer's endeavour (8).
- 8 There's talk of the Irish going on foot (6).
- 14 Motor noise a new driver finds very significant (8).
- 16 Hors-d'oeuvres served in pots at a get-together (9).
- 17 Garter cheetah is on edge (8).
- 18 The stock controller moving on (6).
- 20 The absence of sound justice in Shakespeare (7).
- 22 Career of a top player receiving little money (5).
- 24 Making economies, for example, to accommodate the family (5).
- 25 New maps in current use (4).

Answers on page 12

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadways information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE
C London (within N & S Circ) 731
M1/M25/M4/M41 732
M1/M25/M4/M25/M26 733
M1/M25/M4/M25/M26 734
M25 London Orbital only 735

National
National motorways
West Country 737
Wales 738
Midlands 739
East Anglia 740
North-West England 741
North-East England 742
Scotland 743
Northern Ireland 744

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Concise crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,902 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker.

ACROSS

- 1 Put off, one speaks out — or weakens (12).
- 9 It's most important for a doctor to hold the pointer in the boat (9).
- 10 Continental articles appear inferior (5).
- 11 It holds the sign of an old school in place (3-3).
- 12 Training that's really boring (8).
- 13 Make clear the fish must be kept in running water (6).
- 15 Act natural — for the present (8).
- 16 One can only await developments in this area (4-4).
- 19 Makes little of daring manoeuvres (6).
- 21 Neglecting to write love-letter (8).
- 22 Pop back with ring or charm (6).
- 26 Note overdue transport (5).
- 27 Soldiers aim to get a reduction of sentence (9).

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 17C; Lowest: Isle of Man, 10C. Highest rainfall: 48mm (48p); highest rainfall: Cardiff and Bristol, 0.41in.

Sunday: Highest sunshine: Morecambe, Lancashire, 12.0hr.

Scotland will be rather cloudy with prolonged rain but most of the country will have sunshine and showers. The showers will be heaviest and most frequent in the north and west. Any showers in the south will die out later in the day as thicker cloud spreads in from the southwest bringing rain to much of southern England and Wales by midnight. It will be windy in many places. Outlook: Sunshine and showers but Wales and southern England will have more prolonged rain on Tuesday. Quite windy and feeling cold.

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MAN OF
THE WEEK

Purves
puts a
knight
in check

Given Sir Jeremy Morse's brilliant strategic mind — he is one of the most able chess players in Britain — he is certain to have scrutinised the psychological make-up of his opponent in the Battle of Midland. Like two kings eyeing each other across a board with Willie Purves ebony, perhaps, and Sir Jeremy ivory, the decision as to whether the game will begin is in Sir Jeremy's court.

His hesitation about countering Hongkong Bank's bid is possibly caused by the thought of Purves in full flight. For while Sir Jeremy was studying classics at Oxford, Purves was giving vent to his aggression within the more robust environs of the army. At 19, he won the DSO for defending a Korean hill with a handful of men.

Physically large, Purves, 60, likes, and is used to, getting his own way. Although colleagues loyally insist that he is approachable, that his door is always open, he is



Purves: plays to win
not someone to be approached lightly. Midland's directors, after recent meetings, have been expressing their astonishment at the way none of Purves' colleagues ever utters a word.

Not known to defer to subordinates, Purves' hierarchical view of the world means he has high regard for those he deems his senior. He listens to Sir Peter Wallers, since he once ran a group bigger than his bank. But even Sir Peter would be intimidated if such respect was not given.

Mr Purves is too much of a dour, parsimonious Scot ever to be an empire builder, but he always plays to win. Whereas Sir Jeremy will be conscious of the need to play well within the rules, Purves' only Achilles heel will be a Scottish reluctance to over-pay.

Meanwhile, for those who argue that Purves would be more evenly matched against Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds, that might hold only until Pitman stares into Purves' eyes. Pitman has not yet put his finger on a trigger. Purves has already killed.

CAROL LEONARD

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7715 (+0.0245)
German mark
2.9256 (+0.0125)
Exchange index
92.3 (+0.7)
Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2072.5 (+13.3)
FT-SE 100
2643.0 (+4.4)
New York Dow Jones
3324.46 (-42.04)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17542.45 (-417.31)

1X

Bonn rejects US attack at G7 meeting

Germany keeps hard line on monetary policy

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT, IN WASHINGTON

GERMANY, angered by American attacks on its economic policies, hit back at the Group of Seven meeting here yesterday, removing any thoughts that it might relax its monetary stance to help foster more vigorous world growth.

Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, whose tight monetary rein has provoked criticism from both sides of the Atlantic that he is stifling growth in Germany and the rest of the European Community, was unyielding. The Bundesbank, he said, had "no scope for a cut in interest rates".

He vigorously defended Germany's growth record, despite the tough monetary squeeze it has put in place.

Canada will not bail out O&Y

BY OUR CITY STAFF

OLYMPIA & York, the troubled Toronto property company that is developing Canary Wharf in London, will not be saved by the Canadian government. Donald Mazankowski, Canada's finance minister, told news agencies at the weekend: "I can assure you we will not be involved in a bail-out."

The Toronto Star newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, said O&Y wants loan guarantees of C\$56 million (US\$42 million) each from the governments of Canada and Ontario. Bob Rae, Ontario's premier, declined to discuss specifics concerning the Toronto Star story. However, in reference to the company's development in New York, London and Toronto, and its stakes in natural resource companies, he said: "The assets are there. Their future is very important to the province of Ontario."

Bankers to O&Y said they

expect to lend the group some cash, but are still deeply worried over the company's long-term prospects. O&Y's solvency appears to depend on the bank's willingness to lend an additional US\$260 million in the next 90 days. One banker said that while the banks had made proposals involving some short-term facility, he added: "They will not lend the amount asked for, not for the period it requested."

The banks said they would like more information on the incentives O&Y offered to attract potential tenants to Canary Wharf. The unknown extent of the incentives could raise "black holes" in O&Y's financial position, bankers said. One lender said banks were concerned about "drilling cash out to O&Y without knowing where it will all end".

Bankers to O&Y said they

Letters, page 11
Comment, page 17

German strikes, page 7

Discontent increases, page 6

Consumers call for gas enquiry

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

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CAROL LEONARD

British Gas's firm industrial and commercial market by 1995. British Gas faced pressure from the Office of Fair Trading to facilitate increased competition after months of hard bargaining. Had the company refused, it would have faced a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Many of the details, including a new regime of transmission charges for the British Gas supply business and its rivals, have still to be settled. These are to be agreed by negotiation, without a formal study of the consequences, because a monopolies reference was averted.

The council's fears stem from last month's agreement that paved the way for rivals to capture 60 per cent of

the market.

Mr Cooper says: "It is wishful thinking for anyone to conclude that consumer gas prices will automatically be limited to 5 per cent below inflation. The cost of gas to British Gas will ultimately depend upon the development of demand in the United Kingdom and in Europe as a whole."

Discontent increases, page 6

Spring of discontent strikes a memory

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

AMETAL worker at a Mannesmann plant in the Ruhr valley calculated at the end of a strike in 1984 that he would need to work four-and-a-half years to recoup the money he lost during the strike.

Germany is again gripped by strike fever, and for millions of men and women who stay at home today the economics of industrial action are similar, if not worse. Only the scale is larger. The public sector strike began over the weekend, when union members voted by 88.9 per cent in favour of strike. Already, at Hamburg airport 20 tonnes of air mail have piled up. Even in the theatres an iron curtain has settled down, according to one activist.

There will be no winners. The government negotiations are offering a maximum 4.8 per cent pay rise, compared

with 5.4 per cent recommended by an arbitrator. For many public sector workers the difference amounts to as little as DM20 a month.

With the benefit of distance and ignorance, one can easily dismiss these strikes as a sign that Germany is about to collapse into the type of labour relations witnessed in Britain during the seventies. Some British commentators

even take the strikes as evidence of the inferiority of Germany's consensus-style social policy.

There do exist superficial similarities with the winter of discontent in 1979. The present discontent is not merely the result of the strike, however, but its main cause. It is not the usual discontent about the distribution of wealth between rich and the



Barclays chief to go at end of year

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

SIR John Quinton, chairman and chief executive of Barclays, has formally confirmed that he will retire from the bank at the end of the year.

Sir John, who underwent heart surgery two years ago, said that his intention to step down after his sixty-third birthday on December 21 had been planned for several months. "There has been no boardroom coup," he insisted.

Shareholders will be told formally of the boardroom changes at Thursday's annual meeting. Sir John is expected to say he is stepping down as chief executive shortly and as chairman by the end of the year. The annual meeting should also be told of his successors as chairman and chief executive.

Officially, the board has not yet been told of Sir John's intentions, nor has any announcement been made to the Stock Exchange.

A Barclays board meeting precedes Thursday's annual meeting. Andrew Buxton, currently managing director of Barclays Bank, is widely expected to be promoted.

Analysts said there were not unduly surprised at Sir John's announcement, adding that Barclays had not covered itself in glory in recent years.

The bank's exposure to property in Britain and America, which includes loans to Heron, Olympia & York, Speyhawk and others, had seriously damaged the group's profitability.

Analysts added that even though Barclays had not yet made a formal announcement about the succession, they would not welcome the prospect of one person assuming the roles of chairman and chief executive when the bank's changes are finalised.

The Bank of England is known not to favour dual roles.

A possible candidate as chairman, assuming Mr Buxton becomes chief executive, is Sir Peter Middleton, a deputy chairman of the bank and formerly permanent secretary to the Treasury, who joined Barclays in 1991.

The City says that Barclays — though not alone — failed to read the recession, and that when the recession arrived, Barclays was not particularly good at managing it.

Companies rush to go public

BY OUR CITY STAFF

ASUMMER rush of London Stock Exchange floatations, now being finalised by merchant bankers in the wake of the Tory election victory, could soak up £5 billion from the investing public in the next four months.

Kenwood Appliances, the electrical goods group, and Taunton Cider, Britain's second largest cider maker, said yesterday they were headed for flotation this summer, both via an offer for sale.

They join GPA, the Irish aircraft leasing combine. The Daily Telegraph, TJ Hughes, the Liverpool discount stores group, and Industrial Control Services, the Essex-based electronic safety company, that are also en route to being listed.

Wellcome Trust, the 73.6 per cent controlling shareholder of Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group, has appointed lead managers for a July offering of part of its holding that will raise at least £4 billion from a spread of international investors.

GPA has a May 13 launch date planned for a \$3 billion float that involves an offer for sale of up to \$750 million of new shares at about \$21 each. The corporate takeover and stock market flotation scene was given new life after the general election, and after last week's £518 million share bid by TI Group for Downy.

Timothy Parker, chief executive of Kenwood, who led a

issues in the corporate finance practice of KPMG Peat Marwick, believes that now the general election is out of the way, many more companies will push the flotation button.

Taunton Cider, which was a £100 million management buyout from a consortium of brewers in May last year, is likely to have a market capitalisation of between £130 million and £150 million in the first quarter of 1991.

He said: "By the last quarter of 1992, I believe we could see a return to the levels of floatations of the late 1980s."

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German strikes, page 7

SMALLER COMPANIES

Kingston fuelled by Orcol takeover

THE black cloud that still hangs over oil and gas has failed to halt a recovery in the shares of Kingston Oil & Gas, a London-listed company with substantial American interests. The shares have rallied from 64p in February to 82p. Although they still trade at a discount to a 1990 rights issue price of 110p, institutional investors are again showing interest.

The reason is that the company's £4.5 million acquisition of Orcol Fuels, a UK-based waste fuel reclamation business, is beginning to bear fruit. Orcol, the acquisition of which was funded by the rights issue, contributed just over half of last year's profits. At £1.19 million, those were more than double 1990's £501,399. Orcol has also given Kingston a valuable UK earnings base, with significant tax advantages.

Kingston could afford to increase its total dividend from 1.56p to 2.5p, with a 1.5p final. That made it something of a rarity in a sector more used to dividends being cut, or passed altogether. The company ended the year with cash in the bank and said strong cash flow this year would keep the balance sheet strong.

Ray Chambers, chairman, emphasises that Kingston's record in America, a graveyard for the ambitions of so many London-listed companies, is good. Operations are confined to Ohio, a state the company knows well, and all gas produced is sold under long-term contracts with six customers. Kingston owns the pipelines and estimates that the scrap value of its wells and well-head equipment is about £2 a share.

Gas prices in America remain depressed but Mr Chambers believes they will recover as legislation comes into effect obliging power generators to reduce coal-based carbon emissions.

In Britain, Orcol has good prospects in a market that must grow as measures are taken to encourage the use of recycled oil to conserve energy and reduce pollution. Kingston claims competitive advantages over its two main UK rivals, BCS and Landstar, both owned by venture capital groups.

Further consolidation in a sector once dominated by small, family-run concerns seems inevitable, and Orcol is well placed to take advantage of opportunities.

MARTIN BARROW

Directors come under fire over pay rises

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY rises averaging more than twice inflation awarded to Britain's business leaders have been severely criticised by Roger Young, director-general of the British Institute of Management (BIM).

He called on directors of large companies to "take a long, hard look" at their remuneration after a BIM survey showed senior directors' rises averaged 9.3 per cent last year while managers and staff tightened their belts.

His attack was launched just before the Institute of Directors' annual convention, which takes place tomorrow at the Albert Hall in London.

Speeches from John Major, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, and others are expected to reflect the conference theme: power, performance and ethics.

Mr Young clearly believes an ethical review of senior directors' pay is overdue.

The BIM survey, published today, shows that directors of companies with annual sales exceeding £600 million received pay rises averaging 9.3 per cent during 1991.

Directors of smaller companies received much smaller rises. Managers' pay rises averaged 6.4 per cent, significantly below the average increase for the UK workforce last year of 8 per cent.

The BIM survey, conducted with the aid of Remuneration Economics, is one of Britain's most authoritative, covering 20,609 individuals in 340 companies together employing more than 2 million people.

Mr Young said: "This survey shows that managers are accepting the consequences of recession. They are not afraid to take the medicine of lower relative pay when necessary. Directors of large

companies should heed their example. They must be seen to be tightening their belts along with everyone else."

Mr Young gave a warning to senior directors to expect a backlash if they failed to change their behaviour.

He said: "They have benefited from the tax reductions of the last ten years and will have only themselves to blame if they are seen as greedy. The politics of envy will ensure that increases in taxation will greatly reduce their real earnings."

The BIM's alarm over excessive pay rises has been compounded by an analysis of the study's findings.

The authors said: "For the first time since the survey began 19 years ago, real earnings have significantly outpaced the growth in gross domestic product — by 2 per cent, while output shrank by 2.4 per cent."

The survey concluded that this would reduce employment or profits or push up prices, and affect future pay awards. Some pay experts argue that many pay awards were bound to be high last year because negotiations were trying to "catch up" with higher inflation in 1990.

More recent, but less detailed, data from the Confederation of British Industry and leading pay research groups have suggested that shopfloor settlements have now fallen to around the current level of inflation, as measured by the retail prices index, of 4 per cent.

The BIM breakdown of pay awards shows that the average director now earns £64,933, while the average manager earns £29,503.

More than 40 per cent of the managers and directors surveyed earned more than £30,000. Nearly 60 per cent earned in excess of £50,000.

WHO GETS WHAT				
Region	Managers' earnings	Rises	Directors' earnings	Rises
Inner London	£29,058	3.8%	£22,468	0.0%
Outer London	£23,441	3.5%	£27,619	3.2%
South East	£21,198	7.8%	£21,141	6.8%
South West	£21,194	4.4%	£20,516	3.8%
East Anglia	£25,805	6.4%	£27,118	5.8%
Scotland	£28,486	9.7%	£20,633	5.0%
Yorks & Humber	£26,202	7.0%	£26,376	4.6%
W Midlands	£26,919	4.4%	£26,843	5.0%
North West	£25,760	7.3%	£28,800	6.2%
E Midlands	£24,480	4.4%	£24,121	5.8%
North	£24,351	7.2%	£20,744	14.1%



Smiling through: Carla Hills, US trade representative, conferring with Warren Lavorel, one of her team, before informal talks started in Japan yesterday

Trade talks agenda widened

TRADE ministers winding up a weekend of informal talks tried to give the stalled Uruguay round of world trade talks a gentle nudge forward, but steered clear of the most delicate issues.

Carla Hills, the American trade representative, and her counterpart from the EC, Japan and Canada met in Urasanbo, north of Tokyo, from Friday to Sunday for talks centred largely on the Uruguay round.

The ministers told a press

conference they planned to intensify talks on a broader range of topics but added that they did not want to set a deadline for completion of the talks.

Kozo Watanabe, Japan's minister for international trade and industry, said: "The process is stalled in the final stage."

He added: "We need to revitalize the talks by continuing to talk in other areas than agriculture."

The Uruguay round, in

which the 108 members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade hope to liberalise markets, was due to end about 18 months ago.

Trade negotiators said that they would intensify discussions on topics such as services, creating political momentum for the talks and shortening the time needed to conclude the round once an agreement on agriculture has been reached.

SCOTT MILLER
Reuter

New SE service for neglected shares

BY RODNEY HOBSON

AN EXPERIMENT by the Stock Exchange to drum up interest in the least traded stocks begins today. Company brokers for 120 stocks have been given a list of financial details that will be available on all dealing screens. Their response is described by an exchange spokeswoman as "very positive". The new service is called the company bulletin board.

Each of the least traded stocks will be allotted one page on the Stock Exchange's Topic computer system in a bid to give market-makers the confidence to display the prices at which they are prepared to deal, just as they do with liquid stocks.

Company brokers will be responsible for supplying details, including the number of shares in issue, the latest after-tax profit figures and

the last dividend paid. The volume of trading over the past 12 months will be displayed together with details of the last ten trades, including the names of the market-makers who bought and sold.

The data will not reveal whether the market-makers traded for themselves or for a client, nor will it show which was the buyer and which the seller. The screen will show the last time that information was updated.

Market-makers will be able to display prices they are prepared to deal at and the maximum size of order they will handle, but must say whether the prices are firm or merely an indication. Where prices are displayed as firm, the market-maker is obliged to accept an order. Company brokers can help brokers to match up orders.

The main consideration is the condition of Britain's economy, compared with other European countries; the minor one is the speed with which investor perceptions will respond to any changes in relative fundamental. For the most part, the indications seem rather encouraging.

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Inflation, in particular, may provide some pleasant surprises. Already 4% below the German figure, a much wider differential may exist

News Corp names executive

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE News Corporation, owner of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, has appointed Stanley K. Honey as executive vice-president from May 1. He will manage News Technology Group, a newly created division that will consolidate The News Corporation's activities in new media technologies.

Mr Honey is currently president and chief executive officer of California-based Etak Inc; that supplies digital map devices to car manufacturers.

News Technology Group will include Etak Inc, News Datacom, which has developed technology in encryption and media access control, and The Times Network Systems, which develops CD-based electronic reference products.

by the end of this year. Not only are pay settlements here moderating more quickly than in Germany, but labour productivity is advancing at a much brisker pace.

The external accounts provide a similarly revealing differential between performances. While Germany is recording current account deficits (as a percentage of GNP) that are small and falling, despite a revival in internal demand, Britain is chalking up persistently large deficits, and doing so in the face of significant recession.

Given, moreover, Britain's improvement in competitiveness (the result of the inflation differential), a further widening of the overseas trade disparity is likely to manifest itself in the months ahead.

The fiscal deficits tell an essentially parallel story. Britain's post-recession is not good, but Germany's, after its eastern spending, is sometimes get things wrong but, even when wrong, they are internally consistent, never rational.

Public borrowing in the "debt-paradise" will probably fall in the next few years as economic recovery lifts tax revenues, while a newly reinstated (majority) government limits spending.

Deficiency is a more likely outcome in Germany, with those who operate in the foreign exchange market, to a large extent, consistent. That risk could hardly be seen as less outside the system; nor, therefore, could the interest rate differential. But there is nothing permanent about the market's assessment. In the past 12 months, the differential between British and German interest rates has fallen 3 per cent — a reflection of investors gradually changing their minds about the size of risk involved in holding sterling. There is no more reason to believe the present differential will persist than there was to think the much bigger one 12 months ago would do so.

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For those who think the fundamentals are in place, and will persist, the appropriate action is not to rail at the shortcomings of the ERM, but to invest in assets that will benefit from the interest rate transition when it eventually occurs. Long gilts are the obvious answer. They yield 9% per cent at present, but could be down to 8% per cent by year-end if our analysis is right, and to 7% per cent by end-1993.

ROGER NIGHTINGALE
Roger Nightingale & Associates

CAPITAL MARKETS

Chinese stock markets thrive on 'socialism'

THE "socialist way of trading securities" may sound contradictory, but in China, biggest and most pragmatic of the surviving communist states, it is a working reality.

In truth, the socialist way of trading securities is little other than the capitalist version with a few additional controls that would not be out of place in many southern European markets. Short selling, for example, is not allowed if that represents capital speculation.

This week sees the flotation of two new companies on the Shenzhen stock exchange, the newer and larger of the two Chinese markets. Hua Fa Electronics and Shenzhen Electronics bring the total number of Shenzhen stocks to 12, of which six are in the form of B shares and can be bought by foreigners. Eleven B shares are due to be listed by the end of the summer, with another 12 by the new year. The B share companies, selected by local authorities, are joint ventures, mostly managed from Hong Kong.

Western interest in the B share market is limited although several investment vehicles specialising in the Chinese market have been set up. The Chinese market is

one of the fastest growing in the Far East. The Shenzhen and Shanghai exchanges have a capitalisation of \$2 billion, the same size as that of Indonesia three years ago. Shenzhen is now the larger and more sophisticated of the two, boasting screen-based, matched-bargain trading.

The first quarter's pre-tax profits are expected to have advanced to £225 million, against £198 million last time, according to Alasdair Nisbet, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew.

Mr Nisbet's figures include an exceptional gain of £15 million to £20 million, from the sale of the sales business. Market forecasts range from £100 million to £225 million.

ICI should report a resilient performance in its pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals operations, but trading in bulk chemicals is thought to have remained difficult.

TODAY

Interim: Associated British Foods (first quarter), Blenheim Group, Lyle's (S).

Finals: Balfour International (fourth quarter), Davies Estates, How Group, Irish Life, Molyneux Holdings, Sanif Coats, Smith (James) Estates, Walker (J) & Co, Wensum.

Economic statistics: Engineering sales and orders at current and constant prices (February).

TOMORROW

Interim: Govett Strategic Investment Trust, Kleinwort High Income Trust (third quarter), Moran Holdings, Wharfedale.

Finals: Brown & Jackson, Edinburgh Investment Trust, Explora Holdings, Folkes Group, Govei Oriental Investment Trust, Ingram, Smith & Williamson, TSI, TSW Television, South West Holdings, Worldwide Foods, Yule Gatto & Co.

Economic statistics: CBI industrial trends survey (March).

WEDNESDAY

Bank of Scotland, which makes more than half of its money south of the border.

REPORTING THIS WEEK



will continue to enjoy the benefit of last May's £194 million rights issue, but will be restricted by higher provisions for bad debts.

Kleinwort Benson is looking for final pre-tax profits of £140 million, compared with £134.1 million last time. Market forecasts range from between £130 million and £150 million.

Earnings per share are expected to slip to 6.2p from 7.6p, but an increased dividend of 4.4p compared with 4.1p last time is predicted.

Despite the recession in the property sector, UBS Phillips & Drew expects final pre-tax profits at Erixton Estate, the property company that specialises in industrial property development and investment, to advance to about £26.5 million, against £23.6 million

last time. An improved dividend of 8p (7.1p) is forecast.

N Brown Group, the mail order company based in Manchester, that specialises in such niche areas as selling clothes to older, outsize women, is expected to report an increase in full-year profits.

Interim: Drayton Asia Trust, Majedie Investments, Rosehaugh, SKF Group (first quarter).

Finals: Amer Group, Bank of Scotland, British Fittings Group, Brixton Estate, Brown (N) Group, Eddie Holdings, Hopkinson Group, Shilton, Travis Perkins.

Promotion spotlight falls on Lyall

Ipswich celebrate title and a step in right direction

Oxford United 1
Ipswich Town 1

By PETER ROBINSON

EVERYTHING comes to those who wait. At the third time of asking, after making a horrible mess of each of their first two attempts, Ipswich finally wrapped up the second division championship on Saturday and the party, postponed for a long and frustrating fortnight, could begin.

With the final whistle at the Manor Ground, Ipswich supporters stormed to the centre stage. As the terraces emptied of 3,000 of Suffolk's finest, so they gathered, roaring their approval in front of the players' tunnel. Both dugouts

were submerged as the pitch invasion spilled into the main stand and the triumphant singing echoed down to the dressing-rooms beneath.

Their moment of triumph realised at last, nobody wanted it to end.

Indeed, for almost 20 minutes the Ipswich revellers refused to let it end. Only when John Lyall, the Ipswich manager, appeared and made an appeal for the still jubilant crowd to move on did they, reluctantly, do so. As they drifted away, the spotlight shifted to Lyall himself.

The pressure of a jittery promotion run-in lifted from his shoulders. Lyall was at his genial best. Few managers fill the father-figure role as easily and he greeted the young

team's achievement with a parental grin.

Nevertheless, his bashful protestations that the credit belonged to the players, the board and even, partly, to his family fell on deaf ears. This was his achievement and, though he was not letting on, he knew it.

In a season when some managers have tried to buy their place in the Premier League and when others have opted to follow route one, Lyall has stuck to his guns. As at West Ham United, he has done everything to please the purists and bravely kept his cheque book in his pocket. His reward for two years of patient coaching with the players he inherited is the chance to pit his wits against the best of the rest again.

"I had hoped to be in this job for three years," he admitted. "This has come a year early but I am not surprised because of the attitude of the players. They have proved me wrong. They are young and inexperienced and it has been a very tense time for them, but when we have needed them, we have got the points that matter."

Ipswich's League position is ample evidence of that, regardless of the nerves that have hampered them of late. Two weeks ago, Lyall's proteges led the rest by ten points but when they had the chance to win the title against first Bristol City, and then at home to Grimsby Town, they slipped up.

On a smaller stage at Oxford, despite a record attendance, the tension was visibly reduced. Although they fell behind to Maghain's crisp eighth-minute opener, Ipswich replied a minute later through Johnson's header and then shut up shop at the back. There was never any doubt of the point needed to win promotion and with Dozzell, and to a lesser extent Kiwomya, threatening, it could easily have been three. It was not a vintage performance but in the event, the point was enough.

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Fulham managed to pre-

serve their own faint hopes of

a place in the play-offs for

only 20 minutes before being

engulfed by a scintillating display of attacking football which delighted the biggest crowd at Griffin Park this season.

Brentford took the lead in

the 21st minute when Holdsworth dived bravely to head Gayle's cross past Stannard.

In the 44th minute, Blissett was fouled on the right-hand edge of the penalty area and Gayle's free kick was allowed to fly across to the far post, where Racliffe completed Fulham's misery.

Birmingham City are pro-

moted but Brentford and

Stoke City are contesting the other automatic place. Hud-

dersfield Town are sure of the

play-offs and the remaining

places lie between Stockport

County, Peterborough and

Exeter City could overtake them.

Darlington, Torquay United

and Shrewsbury Town are

down already. Bury look

likely to join them, but if they

beat Preston North End by

three goals at Deepdale next

Saturday, they will move above them. Hull City, Chester City and Exeter City

would then need to win to be

certain of staying up.

Burnley will be promoted from the fourth division unless they lose all three of their

remaining matches while

conceding an unlikely

number of goals. Blackpool,

Rotherham United and

Mansfield Town are vying for

the two remaining automatic

places and all three are cer-

tain of at least a play-off.

Scunthorpe United and

Rochdale also seem bound

for the play-offs but Barnes'

home defeat by Walsall on

Saturday could prove costly.

Crewe Alexandra and Cardiff

City could overtake them.

David Pleat, the Luton

manager, has said many

times that he is interested

only in optimistic people. On

Saturday, Luton was full of

them, the team giving the

club the possibility of survival

and the board showing its

faith by advertising season

tickets for the Premier League

next season in the match

programme.

Afterwards, the players

were equally optimistic that

they could end a season's

search for three away points

by winning at North County.

Whatever happens, it looks

as if one of the first division's

great escapologists will fall,

but Howe, at least, is keeping

his nerve. With his ready repartee, he seems more at home

at the wrong end of the table

than he did chasing honours.

Having that prankster, Les

Sealey, on loan from Villa,



Turning point: Rush twists in delight after scoring the first of Liverpool's two goals against Manchester United at Anfield yesterday. The result ended United's League championship aspirations. Report, page 24

Wednesday claim place in Europe

By IAN ROSS AND LOUISE TAYLOR

AFTER belatedly flirting with the prospect of winning the League championship, Sheffield Wednesday were left to rue one moment of defensive laxity during the drawn game against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

Wednesday led through Williams's first-half goal until the 88th minute, when Bright raced clear of Pearson to equalise with a spectacular long-range volley. However, the South Yorkshire club ensured a place in next season's UEFA Cup, their first appearance in a European competition for 29 years.

Notts County's brief stay in the first division was officially ended at Maine Road by Manchester City, who spurned a dozen scoring opportunities before and after goals by Simpson and Quimby.

The second division's second automatic promotion, place behind Ipswich Town, is Middlesbrough's, provided they can beat Grimsby Town at home tomorrow and win at Wolverhampton Wanderers four days later.

Leanne Lawrence's team - which beat Bristol Rovers 2-1 after being a goal down at Ayresome Park on Saturday - are three points behind Leicester City, who hold second place, but have a game in hand and a superior goal difference.

Leicester suffered a setback, losing 2-0 at Charlton Athletic, who are challenging for the play-offs. Should Middlesbrough and Leicester slip

up, Derby County would be in with a chance of direct entry to the Premier League. They recorded a club-record twelfth away victory, 2-1 at Hinsdale City.

Blackburn Rovers' first win in eight games - 2-1 against Millwall at Ewood Park, where they had been a goal down - moved Kenny Dalglish's team to within a point of the play-off zone.

Jack Walker, the owner, has pledged to pour a further £25 million into the club.

Two places and three points ahead of Blackburn, who kept on course for the play-offs with a 4-2 home win over doomed Port Vale.

Swindon Town's 1-0 triumph at home to Plymouth Argyle left them in play-off contention, while pushing Plymouth nearer the third division. Newcastle United can breathe slightly easier after defeating Portsmouth 1-0 on Tyneside, ending the promotion hope of Jim Smith, their former manager.

Senden seem certain to

conquer the FA Cup final as a confirmed second division side after a 2-2 draw at Brighton, who look destined for the drop.

Wimborne Town, of the Wessex League, beat Grimsby, the holders, from North Yorkshire, 5-3 in the FA Vase final at Wembley, and Doncaster Belles won the women's FA Cup by defeating Red Star Southampton 4-0 at Tramore Rovers.

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English and Welsh rugby union championship races are settled

Bath's celebration is tempered

Bath 32
Saracens 12

By DAVID HARDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ANDY Robinson was given little time for reflection after Bath's third Courage Clubs Championship came safely to rest at the Recreation Ground on Saturday. The joy of achieving the club's primary target in his first season of captaincy was supplemented by the news from London of Harlequin's plight a week before the Pilkington Cup final but tempered by Robinson's concern for Justyn Cassell, the Saracens flanker dismissed for stamping.

Cassell, who is prepared to give up his job as a design consultant to tour New Zealand with England B this summer, could lose his place in the tour party if he is suspended by a disciplinary hearing. However, Robinson would be prepared to give evidence on his behalf for what was, in my view, a misinterpretation of events.

Cassell was sent off by George Seddon after what the referee described as a "clear report" from Barry Lucas, his touch judge. Given that there were two conflicting points of view in the press box, the problems facing match officials in such incidents can hardly be overstated but I have no doubt that Robinson, himself, was at fault after a tackle on Cassell, when play had moved five metres downfield, the Bath captain, lying on the ground, prevented Cassell rejoining the play by hanging on to his legs; in trying to shake his feet free, Cassell clipped Robinson on the head.

"I tackled him and held on to him," Robinson — who conceivably could replace Cassell in the tour party — said. "I don't think he should have been sent off. I went to the referee and said it wasn't a sending-off case. I would stand up for him. He doesn't deserve to miss the tour; I would be very disappointed if that happened. I think he was trying to get me off him and that's fair enough."

If Bath are prepared to plead Cassell's case, it may help, though the best independent witness could be Ian Beer, the Rugby Football Union's junior vice-president, who presented the Courage Trophy to Robinson. Cassell, distraught when he reached the changing-room, said: "It was a complete accident. I just wanted to get to the next

Grand slam secured by England

ENGLAND won the 18 Group grand slam with an 18-3 victory over Wales at Doncaster on Saturday by two goals, a drop goal and a penalty to a penalty (Michael Stevenson writes).

Jason Hewlett opened the scoring with a penalty for Wales and shortly after, a surging run by Nicholas Greenstock took play almost to the Welsh line. He seemed to throw the ball forward as he was tackled, but Neil Ryan dived over for Jon Upton — who missed four kickable first-half penalties — to convert for England's 6-3 half-time lead. During the second half England took control.

■ **Auckland:** New Zealand came back from being 9-6 down at half-time to beat a World XV 26-15 on Saturday and take the three-match series 2-1. All the tries were scored in the second half with New Zealand beating the World XV by four tries to one.



The line beckons. Hill just fails to go over this time but Bath's Courage title was close at hand

phase and win the ball. He was holding on to my feet. I'm there to play rugby, not to put people off the ball."

As it happened, Bath seemed more greatly affected by the incident two minutes into the second half than Saracens. For the first half they had played with a calm control which earned them a 17-0 lead and the London club was scarcely in the match. Had Barnes and Webb not missed eight kicks at goal, the margin of victory would have been far more than two goals, two tries and four penalty goals to a goal and two penalty goals.

It was utilitarian rather than romantic Bath: their catalogue of back moves stayed largely under wraps as the forwards drove, and stood

off, and drove again before the likes of Barnes and de Giverny provided the killing thrusts. Even so, the accuracy and length of the touch kicks found by Barnes and Webb earned the applause of a crowd who have become used to the high standards of consistency which have added the 1992 championship to those of 1989 and 1991.

Given the deduction of one league point for fielding the ineligible Laurie Heatherley in the opening league match and defeat at Orrell, this season has been a demanding one for Bath, yet here they stand, on the verge of another league and cup double. They have grafted extra skills and organisation to their back play and sustained the quality of their back-up players, a fact

endorsed on Saturday by Leslyn Lewis, who did not let down a team lacking the injured Jeremy Guscott.

"It's a new era of Bath rugby," Robinson said proudly but, in his moment of triumph, he found sympathy for Orrell, who at one stage, looked the more likely champions: "They have played so well in their own style, they are a really tough side to beat." Bath could not do it, but even they are human.

SWANSEA: Bath: Tries: Barnes (2), Clarke, Fallon, Con: Webb (2); Pens: Bell (2), Webb (2); Drop: Rutter; Points: Rutherford (2).

BRISTOL: 10 WASPS 33

Bristol: Tries: Redman; Pens: Whing (2); Wasps: Tries: Off (3); Ryan (2); Pagram (4); Pens: Pagram (3)

HARLEQUINS: 21 GLOUCESTER 18

Gloucester: Tries: Chalvour, Carnegie; Cons: Pears (2); Pens: Fears (3)

GLOUCESTER: Tries: Masters, Con: T. Smith; Cons: T. Smith (4)

LEICESTER: 22 RUGBY 22

Leicester: Tries: R. Edwards, Bates, T. Underwood (2); Cons: Uley (3); Rugby: (4); Quinlan; Pens: Felt (2); Morley (4)

NORTHAMPTON: 20 ROSSLYN PARK 12

Northampton: Tries: Griffiths, Shand, Thomey, Con: Dawson; Pens: Dawson (2); Rosslyn Park: Pens: Graves (4)

P. W. D. L. F. A. Pts

Bath 12 10 2 2 204 5

Northampton 12 9 1 2 203 136 20

Gloucester 12 7 1 4 193 168 15

Bristol 12 6 0 5 215 216 13

Wasps 12 6 0 6 177 180 20

Harlequins 12 5 1 6 213 207 11

Leicester 12 4 0 6 192 174 8

Rugby 12 3 7 124 252 7

Nottingham 12 2 3 133 204 5

Rosslyn Park 12 0 1 111 111 258 1

1 point deducted

Jones has Swansea rejoicing

Newport 6
Swansea 18

By GERALD DAVIES

SWANSEA: once described by Dylan Thomas as "ugly, lovely town," Gerry G. smugly subbed by the side of a long and splendid curving shore, finally has something to crow about. On Saturday, with one match remaining, they won the Heineken League title and can now concentrate on taking the Schweppes Cup, which they last won in 1978.

The Welsh team of the season, Swansea, have been exemplified in winning by a goal and three tries to a softy goal in slippery conditions, they took them tally to 56 tries in 17 matches.

In Mike Ruddock and his assistants, Roger Davis and Trevor Chesseman, Swansea have men who steadfastly refused to accept that league rugby's demands must limit a team's vision of the way the game should be played. Their example was brilliant.

Even in Saturday's mud Swansea provided, in their third try, an example of spontaneously turning a critical defensive position into glorious and fulfilling attack. Robert Jones was once again the inspiration though, on an uncomfortable day for scrum halves, he was often submerged in the awkward, thick mucus or clearing up the mess of others. Twice he intruded to swing the tide inexorably towards Swansea.

First when Yendle's little chip behind Swansea's defence looked a threat, Jones fell to smother the danger, rose to his feet again in one move, and ran with Clement in support. The full back could have scored himself but his unselfish pass gave Simon Davies the try instead.

Earlier in the first half, Gibbs' try had been overtaken by the cheekiest of tries by Newport. Turner's short, sharp pass gave Westwood the score. Turner converted to give his team an unexpected lead. But in injury time, Jones moved left, after Stuart Davies had gone right, and went through the tiniest gap to put Swansea ahead at half-time.

The later stages belonged to them. From a prolonged maul, Williams atoned for hitting an upright with a penalty by going one better. His try in the corner put the master beyond doubt.

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HEINEKEN WELSH LEAGUE

First division

Llanelli 47 NEWBRIDGE

LLANelli 47 NEWBRIDGE

Second division

LLANelli 47 NEWBRIDGE

LLANelli 47 NEWBRIDGE

Third division

LLANelli 47 NEWBRIDGE

LLANelli 4

St Ninian to start term on high note

LESTER Piggott can successfully resume his partnership with St Ninian, who is napping to open his seasonal account in the Tote Bookmakers Stakes at Pontefract today.

Last season, Piggott rode the Peter Easterby-trained gelding to win competitive handicaps at Newbury and Kempton Park.

The six-year-old held his form remarkably well throughout the season. On his first run in the William Hill Lincoln at Doncaster, he showed that he comes to hand early when runner-up to Ameliorate. At Newmarket, on his final outing, he was third to Hybella in a listed event where Rudimentary, Friday's Forte Mile winner, finished fourth.

The race-fit Tanith appears the chief threat. At Doncaster last time out he failed by a head to hold off Daros, who was receiving 17lb. However, the form of that mile event has not been enhanced since Daros finished out of the first six at Sandown on Saturday while My Monitors (third) and Soleil Dancer

(fourth) have also disappointed.

Safa, a highly-rated filly, would be a serious danger if she found the form that enabled her to finish runner-up to Shamship in a group one contest at Ascot in 1990, but, she ran only twice last year and has had training problems.

Piggott can initiate a double with Sirena Beat in the Tote Credit Selling Handicap. The Patrick Haslam-trained gelding will appreciate this considerable drop in class after a disappointing performance in a non-selling handicap last time.

Hespan can follow up his recent Ripon win in the first division of the Rugeley Claiming Stakes at Wolverhampton, and Henry Cecil, his trainer, should be on the mark again later with Rockawhile in the Wanning Street Stakes.

Robyn Dickin can take the Stobart Conditional Jockeys' Selling Handicap Hurdle with Gorda's Gold. But hopes of a double with Fairfields Cone, in the Law Society Legal Handicap Hurdle, may be thwarted by Fettuccine.

Barry Morgan can also land a double on his local course with Dandy Desire in the Lichfield Stakes and

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Patient Parker saves Durham's pride

BY ALAN LEE

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IF THERE is one item which Durham possess in abundance, it is wise old heads in the dressing-room. On the day when the champagne launch fell flat, the worldliness of the thirty-somethings was a mighty comfort.

It was, of course, never meant to be a rose garden for the new boys and the glow, utterly unbegraded within the game, which accompanied last Sunday's defeat of Lancashire, had already been cast into shadow by Tuesday's loss to Glamorgan.

But the one-day arena is there to be conquered by a team of Durham's experience. The championship is a different matter, as the first day emphasised to the unwary. Unexpectedly, it was not Durham's bowling which was exposed before the ceremonial gathering of cricket's hierarchy, but their celebrity batting order.

With four Test players in the top six, runs were thought likely to be the least of Durham's problems. Yet Leicestershire, who found it hard to bowl anyone out last year, dismissed them for 164, three wickets each to Mullally, who hardly bowled through injury in 1991, and

Wells, who hardly bowled because Kent did not believe he could.

Dean Jones began with a thrilling century against Lancashire, but could manage only two on his first championship appearance. Of the blame, he will believe, must go to turgid pace of the university pitch. But this, local opinion insists, is unlikely to alter, whichever of their sundry home grounds Durham use.

For fast-pitch stroke players such as Jones, Larkins and Botham, it is a dilemma with which they must quickly come to terms if the great adventure is not to run aground.

Saturday's saviour was Paul Parker, the vice-captain, patiently responsible for almost half the total. Botham, whose bowling will be better suited than his batting to local conditions, then took two wickets in the evening session. Leicestershire, 98 behind and with their two best players gone, remain vulnerable.

The manner of Parker's departure from Sussex may mean he sheds few tears for their plight. Injury and illness have discounted half the team and, on the usual flat pitch at Southampton, Hampshire took pitiful advantage. Terry and Middleton made big hundreds.

Smith is just getting into gear. It is 334 for one and a chap called Gower is next.

There was not such serene progress for the Bothamless Worcestershire. It is good to see Seymour and Leatherdale winning early encouragement, but Rhodes is a place too high at No. 6 and the batting may need reinforcement. Hick's 92, seen by the new England selector, Dennis Amiss, was the feature of a modest 277 for seven against Northamptonshire.

Of those who might conceivably captain England next winter, Martyn Moxon was first to advertise his form. He made 141 of York-

shire's 273 for three at the Oval, although he will not be the last to capitalise on a Surrey attack looking impotent without Waqar Younis.

There are, surprisingly, those who still press Mike Gatting's claims. That would seem both improbable and inappropriate, but his return as a player would be welcomed. Nobody in England makes runs more consistently and he began a new season by extracting Middlesex from the unholiness of 129 for six against Glamorgan. Gatting made 170 out of 341. For Glamorgan, missing the injured Richards, Steve Bastien took five wickets.

BOXING

Eubank packs a punch again

BY SRIKUMAR SEN

BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Eubank could at last be coming to terms with the traumas of the last eight months. Only three months ago, he was so weighed down with concern for Michael Watson, who suffered brain damage after a bout with him, and about a fatal car crash in which he was involved, that he could barely put two punches together against Thulani Malinga, of South Africa.

At Manchester on Saturday he pulled out his right-hand knockout punch again to end John Jarvis's challenge for the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title in the third round.

Eubank still intends to give up this "barbarous sport", most likely at the end of the year after securing his financial position. He plans to take a degree in psychology on Open University or at Cambridge, and after that work for peace in the world. "Everywhere there's badness," he said. "As a humanitarian, I want to do something. I have a platform, why not use it?"

He looked relaxed at the post-fight press conference. When told he would have to make up his mind in June about defending against Nigel Benn, the No. 1 challenger, he said: "The only thing I have to do is stay black and die."

The bout with Benn is being planned to look like a possibility. Describing himself as a businessman, Eubank has cut down his demand from £2 million to £1.65 million. "If you want to see a confrontation between me and Nigel, give me £1 million tax-free and set me free."

It is significant that Eubank will next be defending his title in a £1 million promotion at Quinta da Lago, the Algarve, on June 27, courtesy of Benn, who has agreed to waive his rights to the next challenge. If Eubank does not face Benn after that, he loses his title.

The opponent in Portugal will be Ron Ester, a stand-up, come-forward type American. He should suit Eubank better than the cagey Jarvis who, if he had been given more than one week's notice, might have given Eubank trouble. For two rounds Eubank could not draw him in. It was only when Jarvis was cornered and attempted to throw a punch that he walked on to a perfect straight right and was cut before he hit the floor.

□ Paul Hodgkinson retained the World Boxing Council featherweight championship in Belfast on Saturday. Hodgkinson, of Liverpool, proved much too good for Steve Cruz, who beat Barry McGuigan in Las Vegas nearly six years ago. The referee stopped the bout 1min 56sec into the third round after the Texan had been floored for a second time by a Hodgkinson left hook.

EQUESTRIANISM

Moore rides double

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

OWEN Moore, who will have his first ride at Locomotion next week on Locomotion, won two of the competitive advanced sections at the Pedigree Chum Milton Keynes horse trials yesterday.

Moore, formerly based with the trainer Lars Sederholm and now living near Chipping Norton, was not expecting to win with either of his two horses, King Revenge and Blackberry Way. It was only the second advanced competition for both horses.

Blyth Tait, New Zealand's world champion, relegated Mary Thomson, the British national champion to second place — by two seconds — in the third advanced section.

The most impressive of the Badminton riders competing were Mark Todd, Sarah Kellard, and Lorna Clarke.

RESULTS: Advanced section Pt. I, Badberry Way (O Moore), 43; 2, Bata (D G), Advanced section Pt. II, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. III, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. IV, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. V, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. VI, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. VII, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. VIII, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. IX, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. X, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. XI, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. XII, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. XIII, King Revenge (O Moore), 52; 2, Holsen (D G); Advanced section Pt. 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S. Cubank could at last bring terms with the end of the last eight months. Only three months was so weighed down concern for Michael, who suffered brain damage after a bout with and about a fatal car in which he was involved. That he could barely two punches together Thulani Malinga, of Africa.

Manchester on Saturday pulled out his right-hand punch against John Jarvis's challenge World Boxing Organisations super-middleweight in the third round.

abank still intends to give this "barbarous sport" likely at the end of the after securing his financial position. He plans to take a break in psychology at University or at Cambridge, and after that work peace in the world. "Everywhere there's badness," he said. "As a humanitarian, I'd do something. I have no form, why not use it?"

He looked relaxed at the light press conference held he would have to step up his mind in June and defend against Benji, he said. "The only thing I have to do is stay back."

The bout with Benn is being arranged in a peaceful

deserted hamlet a

down his demands to £100,000 to let him

what to do a situation between the two men

not face Benji at the time.

The bout with Benji will be held in a peaceful

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The opportunity to Benji

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to prove he is a

dangerous floater

and set me free.

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THE TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 27 1992

Football League championship title returns to Elland Road for the first time since 1974

Wilkinson's calm approach vital to Leeds success

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD Wilkinson did not see for himself the moment when his Leeds United side captured the Football League championship for the first time since 1974. The news was relayed to him yesterday by his five-year-old son, Ben, as he sat having lunch on the outskirts of Sheffield.

The setting was appropriate. While Manchester United have been surrounded by high anxiety during the last few weeks, Wilkinson has remained consistently relaxed.

His demeanour has helped to calm the club which appointed him as manager four years ago. Then they were in

TOP OF TABLE

P W D L F A Pts

Leeds ... 41 21 16 4 73 37 79

Man Utd ... 41 20 15 6 69 32 75

Sheff Wed ... 41 21 15 5 72 49 74

Everton ... 41 19 16 6 68 46 73

Man City ... 41 19 10 12 56 46 67

Liverpool ... 41 18 15 10 47 40 63

Notts Forest ... 41 16 11 14 40 55 59

Sheff Utd ... 41 16 9 16 66 50 57

danger of being relegated from the second division.

Having talked to the chairman for six hours, he recognised that he could fulfil one of his managerial ambitions.

Only with the assistance of Manchester United, who were considered 8-1 on favourites less than three weeks ago, has he been able to claim the biggest prize ahead of schedule. "I couldn't have envisaged, when we set out

our plan, that success on this scale would come as soon as it has," Wilkinson said.

"It seemed an impossibility then. There has been no turning point over my period at Leeds or even this season. We just kept plugging away. All I've ever asked of the players was that they do their best and, if they did that, they would get what they deserve.

"If there is a secret, it has been sticking to the plan we drew up at the outset, having the right attitude and principles.

Yet it was significant that, unlike Alex Ferguson, Manchester United's manager, he recently chose to return to the settled side he had picked before Christmas.

He believed then that Leeds, though regarded as the second favourites, might indeed finish in first place. "Christmas was the significant time. It always is a milestone in any season. We were not the best placed team then but I thought that we were in with a chance."

Wilkinson, whose only other previous honour was to win promotion to the first division with Notts County, celebrated them with a curry and French champagne. Yesterday he was with his second wife, Samantha, and a couple of officials at his club, Mike Hennigan and Bill Fotherby.

"This is the most fantastic day of my life," he said. "One of the dreams that have come true. When I was 24, I thought I'd better become a manager because, as a player, I was a bricklayer's labourer. I was young and stupid then. I could grant myself liberties and my ambition was to win the title and a European Cup."

Leeds will next season be England's representative in the principal continental competition and Manchester United, even if they finish below Sheffield Wednesday, will go into the UEFA Cup as the winners of the Rumbelows Cup.

Wilkinson offered his sympathy to Ferguson. "I know what he is going through. To have to play four games in six days is murderous and most unfair. People suffer in this game perhaps when they don't need to. My players have been consistent, they've shown character and some of them have had to play out of position."

"I thought that to draw at Sheffield, United would be a good result, the way that Manchester United have been playing recently. I didn't tell my players that and for them to win, especially as we had three players who were injured, is a terrific result."

Ian Rush, whose goal virtually sealed the outcome, said: "It's nice to score against any side, not just United. But I have sympathy for them because maybe they have been a better footballing team than Leeds this season."

Peter Lorimer, a member of the last Leeds side to lift the title 18 years ago, recalled the manager of that side, the late Don Revie.

"I am sure, at a time like this, Don's family must think about him and what he achieved."

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Ipswich promoted, page 19

Book criticises sports leaders

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE increasing commercialisation of the Olympic Games and the domination of international sport by several well known figures are criticised in a book published today. Two British journalists allege that not only has there been widespread manipulation of sport for financial reasons, but that many of the activities of leading figures in sports politics are contrary to the spirits and ideals of the Olympic charter.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is planning to take legal action against Storck & Schuster, the publishers.

The Lords of the Rings concentrates on examining the records of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president. Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, Joao Havelange, the president of Fifa, football's governing body, and the influence of the late Horst Dassler, the head of Adidas, the sportswear company.

Viv Simson and Andrew Jennings, the journalists, outline Samaranch's history during the Franco regime in Spain and his allegiance to the Falange party. Many contemporary Spanish politicians and public figures also had prominent roles in Fran-

cisco's regime because anyone who wanted political involvement in the 37 years before the dictator's death in 1975 had to work with a totalitarian government. However, the book implies that Samaranch's long active role with the Falange is incompatible with him being president of the IOC, an organisation with ethical associations.

On Nebiolo, the authors record the scandal of the long jump at the 1987 world athletics championships in Rome, when Italian officials attempted to fix the result so that Giovanni Evangelista finished third. The reluctance of Nebiolo to institute any serious enquiry and his refusal to accept any responsibility for the incident despite damning criticism in the independent investigation by the Italian Olympic committee has been well documented. However, the authors tell the history of the scandal in a detail that has not been available in English publications before.

The importance of Adidas to the leading international sports, like athletics and football, is also well known. However, Dassler sought to influence the international governing bodies, down to the election of key officials. The book quotes Denis Howell, the former minister for sport, as saying of Dassler:



Nebiolo: criticised

"The point is that no one in his position as a commercial manufacturer should be involved in trying to seek control of world sporting bodies. It is a concentration of power which I regard as unhealthy."

Patrick Nally, a former partner of Dassler, is quoted extensively on the German's strategy of wooing the international federations for his company's benefit. Beginning with Fifa, Dassler helped link commercial companies with international federations, so increasing their importance and their competition programmes. Nally explains how officials of the federations received gifts from Dassler.

Dassler also set up Inter-

national Sport and Leisure Marketing (ISL), which sold the Olympic emblem of the five interlocking rings to the world's leading international companies. The IOC never put out the contract to tender, and Dassler's ultimate reward was to receive the Olympic order, the highest decoration of the IOC.

Although the book ques-

tions whether the people running international sport are suitable, it only makes oblique references to the im-

ense benefit to sport which has flowed from their activities.

The huge television fees and sponsorships for the Olympic Games and major international championships have promoted the sports and benefited many athletes themselves, and also helped them fulfil their physical potential. It is true as the book constantly states, that many administrators have enjoyed first-class travel, constant receptions and lavish dinners and luxury hotels, but they have also developed the sports, and particularly the Olympic Games, in a way that their predecessors before the 1970s refused to contemplate.

The Lords of the Rings by Viv Simson and Andrew Jennings (Simon & Schuster, £14.99).

Wattana off-cue to Hendry's profit

BY PHIL YATES

SHOULD Stephen Hendry regain the title at the Embassy world snooker championship in Sheffield a week today, there is little doubt he will pinpoint the middle session of his second-round match with James Wattana yesterday as one of the most important of his campaign.

Although the book questions whether the people running international sport are suitable, it only makes oblique references to the im-

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Wattana, the subject of a £9,000 cash bet at the Crucible on Saturday to win the

Anfield gloats as United crack

Liverpool 2
Manchester United 0

BY IAN ROSS

THE dying embers of Manchester United's challenge for the championship were finally extinguished yesterday in front of a crowd at Anfield that rose at the final whistle to bask in their refection. It was cruel but such is the bitter rivalry between Merseyside and Manchester.

Nine days earlier, before Leeds United's arrival at the same stadium, Manchester United were such overwhelming favourites to take their first title in 25 years that bookmakers had stopped taking bets on them.

A fixture that was always destined to be problematical became all the more severe after Leeds' victory earlier in the day. United really had to win. In the event, they slipped to a third defeat in seven days but their fate had been sealed several weeks ago with impotence befalling the forwards and self-doubt gnawing at the midfield.

On an afternoon impaired by a blustery, unpredictable wind United initially applied themselves well. But the surprising inclusion of Robson and Ince two men who were not expected to play again this season, was a calculated gamble that brought only limited success.

Although Robson's belligerence occasionally threatened to ruffle lethargic opponents, his inability to eclipse Molby was the decisive factor amid the fierce aggression and unrelenting incident. Molby was a towering presence who defended with assurance and who instigated the attacks which precipitated United's downfall.

Liverpool's first serious assault yielded a 12th-minute goal. Barnes deftly flicked the ball into the path of Rush who, typically, had timed his run to perfection. He lured Schmeichel away from his line before slotting the ball inside a post for his first goal against United in 24 appearances. In reply, Ince struck the foot of a post. Hughes twice drove over the crossbar and United were denied again when Bruce and Kanchelski both struck the bar in one attack.

They finally bowed after Houghton had driven a cross from Thomas against the bar. Walters stabbed home the rebound to end the arguments.

LIVERPOOL: M Houghton, R Jones, D Burrows, N Turner (sub: B Venson), J Moy, M Wright, D Senter, I Rush (sub: G Whelan), B Goss, P Scurr, G Hodges, P Rogers, A Cork (sub: R Bryant), B Davies, C Rimmer, G Edwards, G Doherty, D Baby, C Patleach, C Whyte, G Strachan (sub: C Shutt), R Wallace, L Williams, G McMillan (sub: E Cantona), G Speed. Kanchelski, R Clifford.

Photograph, page 19



Spain today the chess player
British history
and play the
Raymond Kren
analyses a
million career



Moment of destiny: Gayle, of Sheffield United, heads the ball beyond Rees for Leeds' third goal

Gayle completes bizarre day

Sheffield United 2
Leeds United 3

BY STUART JONES

As Manchester United had been unable to cope in the rarified air of the first division's peak, so Leeds were also visibly shaky. For the opening half-hour, their defence resembled charitable organisation so often did they commit unforced errors and so regularly did they unnecessarily yield possession.

The tension was evident elsewhere. Chapman, Bayne and Speed were all cautioned for arguing too vehemently with the decisions of George Courtney, officiating in his last game. Yet Leeds were punished only once during their period of stage fright.

After Whyte had involuntarily cleared off the line from Pemberton, Leeds were again discomfited by a corner. The ball bounced off Fircough, Hodges and Strachan before falling conveniently to Cork. He was only playing because Davison, since he is on loan from Elland Road, was omitted by mutual agreement.

Almost immediately, another of Gannon's corners caused further chaos, though Chapman inadvertently turned in Pemberton's low

cross. It seemed then that the entertaining derby, disturbed by high winds and occasional showers, might drift to a balanced finish. Yet Gayle, as he retreated towards his hand-picked goalkeeper, was to change again the fluctuating afternoon.

Accompanied by Cantona and Wallace, he appeared to be in control of a through-ball. But the ball, instead of being hooked away, bounced first off his knee and then off his head. It looped over Rees and rolled into the vacant net. Leeds knew even then that they were all but there and later it was confirmed.

Sheffield United's goalkeeper re-emerged with a heavily bandaged right knee and it was obvious that his mobility was restricted. Within a minute, Speed, taking advantage of his hesitancy, struck an upright with a ferocious volley but Lukic was under greater threat at the other end.

He had to tip over Deane's drive and deflect another effort from the tall centre forward before Leeds took the lead shortly after the hour. Rees, unable to jump, allowed McAllister's cross to float over his head and Newsome, crouching at the far post, nodded in.

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A marriage of pleasure

Iran's religious leaders find a Koranic answer for the frustrated

One consequence of this month's Iranian election is that the number of marriages will increase. Hashemi Rafsanjani's government, now returned to power, has long campaigned to secure respectability for the controversial practice of *sighah*, which means a "pleasure" or "temporary" marriage. They can last anything from one hour to 99 years. Banned by the late shah and looked down on by rival Sunni Muslims as legalised prostitution, *sighah* is claimed by leading Iranian Shia clerics to have the blessing of the prophet Mohammed.

With the holy Koran as their guide, Shia men and women may enter into a legal contract in which the man pays the woman and she becomes his "wife" for a specified period.

The contract, which sometimes states the number of times intercourse is to take place, can be agreed orally or signed in front of a mullah.

What might shock liberal clergymen in the West is widely supported by leaders of the Islamic revolution, even by the most influential daughter of the Ayatollah Khomeini, Zahra Mostafavi, the head of Iran's Woman's Association. "Those who practice the custom ... are considered to follow a divinely recommended way in order to satisfy some 'natural' needs," explains Shahin Haeri, in her book *Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage in Iran* (I.B.Tauris, £11.95). "Not only is temporary marriage not considered immoral from a religious and legal point of view, it actually is perceived to combat corruption and immorality."

One Tehran lawyer likened *sighah* to a car rental contract, providing the male with exclusive sexual rights for the period stated. The object was sexual enjoyment and it was to be distinguished from *nikah*, or permanent marriage, whose main aim was procreation.

The conditions of "pleasure marriages", tens of thousands of which take place every week, are heavily weighted in favour of men. But the concept is also supported, by some women, notably widows and divorcees who face (as do all Iranians) heavy penalties for having sex outside marriage but who find

CHRISTOPHER WALKER
RE FEATURES

Shrouded: but the chador conceals surprising liberty



Science beneath the microscope

Books by Bryan Appleyard and Mary Midgley have taken a critical look at the idea that science is a panacea. Next month The Times, with Dillons and Picador, is sponsoring a debate on the motion "The Heartless Truths of Science Strip Man of His Spiritual Dignity". For tickets, fill in the coupon.

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A love affair or even a cigarette can get you fired in America. Is Big Brother coming here? James Bone reports

Too close for the company

KOBAL COLLECTION



A working romance: Spencer Tracy and long-time partner Katharine Hepburn in *Woman of the Year*

far adopted by American states ban discrimination against workers who smoke outside the workplace.

In states where there is no such protection, the consequences for the smoking worker can be drastic. Janice Bone of Wabash, Indiana, for instance, never smoked at work. But that was not enough to satisfy her employer, the Ford Meter Box Corp, which discovered nicotine in her urine in a routine drug test and dismissed her from her job. Since Indiana offered her no legal protection, she got a new job at a video store where she could smoke all day long.

In another recent case in the state, a man named David Winn was fired because his teetotaller employer learned that he had visited a bar and drunk some beer on a Saturday night. Only Colorado has a state law preventing employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of their behaviour outside the office, providing it is legal.

If the off-duty activity is illegal, such as drug use, there are even fewer laws offering protection. A survey by the American Management Association showed that almost two-thirds of the companies that responded now test their workers for illegal drugs.

Workers can legally be fired for refusing to take a drug test.

After a recent crash on the New

York subway believed to have been caused by a drunk train-driver, Congress ordered all four million transportation workers in America to undergo drug testing in what the Air Line Pilots Association described as "a police state tactic". Only Rhode Island, Connecticut, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont and Iowa have legislation restricting who can be tested and how. In most states, the law does not even require the drug test to be performed correctly.

With such limited protection for off-duty behaviour, there is virtually no restriction on what an American employer can tell a worker to do during working hours. Companies

regularly issue dress codes and concern themselves with even the smallest details of comportment.

British companies tend to have gentlemanly unwritten agreements and codes of conduct are rarely enshrined in office doctrine. According to a recent survey by The Communications Group plc, 70 per cent of companies have some sort of formal policy on smoking in the workplace — but none of them extend this to non-office hours. Drug testing is still reserved for athletes, horses and greyhounds.

Most companies and professions accept in-house relationships as long as they are conducted in a prudent fashion and the company isn't compromised. Sharing lifts to work and the odd discreet lunch is fine, but cavorting around the office arm-in-arm or screaming about whose turn it is to clean the bath out is likely to cause more than just a raised eyebrow. Conducting a relationship with someone from a rival firm is not a dismissible offence, although sharing confidential material could be considered illegal.

The British armed forces and the police do have a code of conduct: "Whether officers are on duty or not, they should not behave in a way that would bring discredit on Her Majesty's service," an army spokesman says. "If a married man has an affair,

'America has the rule of employment that says you can hire or not hire anyone and fire them for any reason'

he could be subjected to administrative action and if a single person has an affair with someone's husband or wife the same could apply. These should be a basis of trust between people in the army if they are to go into combat situations together. Two single people from any rank can conduct a decent relationship but that does not include kissing and fondling in public."

Alfred Marks Employment Agency has done one of the few pieces of research on the subject. In a recent survey, it found that office affairs tended not to be one-night stands. More than half the relationships which start at work result in marriage and cohabitation according to a sample of 479 temporary and permanent job applicants. Three in five had experienced at least one affair at work and two-thirds had observed relationships between colleagues. According to a spokesman for British Airways, many of the staff marry people they have met on duty. "Sexual harassment is out of the question but a relationship between two consenting adults is fine as long as it is conducted discreetly," he says.

Of those who had had an affair at work, in Alfred Marks's survey, 57 per cent had been involved with a colleague of the same status. Respondents thought relationships did not affect their work performance or the work of their colleagues. Attitudes of senior members of staff towards relationships in the office were mostly neutral. However two in five thought that senior members of staff were slightly disapproving.

Kitted out: a circuit court

A new book by

Art m

The most significant mainstay of the Nazi art establishment in terms of its size and influence was the *Deutsche Akademie der Künste* (Academy of the Fine Arts) in Berlin, which housed the aesthetic centre of the official Nazi art. Socialist paintings, sculpture, design and architecture were not to be politically incorrect, if not downright baneful. Art recently indeed any such judgement would have been almost impossible, however little of the art is on show.

Germany's greatest embarrassment by this unvarnished heritage, the busts of nearly 10,000 artworks, many of them bearing swastikas and other Nazi symbols, which were taken to the United States after the war and have since been returned, are locked away in a customs museum expressing an desire to exhibit them.

However in a documentary maker and author, Peter Adam, has gathered together a comprehensive range of "official" Third Reich art in a new book. We can now see that much of the immense times life-size and invincible busts on a colossal scale, where the paintings -- by artists loyal to the Reich, who shared the *Führer's* contempt for "degenerate" art -- by such as Otto Dix -- tend towards mawkish depictions of farm land, caricatures of Jews as fraudsters and endless portraits of Hitler himself in every sort of uniform, even a suit of

The legacy that Germany architecture of the period, much of which survives, is. It is monumentalistic — a sort of brutal neoclassicism — that is best the sort of thing a military regime intent on taking over the world might be relied upon to produce. But much of it is of a high standard. Hitler often said if he was not destined to be *Führer*, he would have been an architect. As it was he saw himself as architect of the entire nation, while leaving most of the actual work to a group comprising Albert Speer, Paul

She who must be obeyed . . . and don't hang about

In Libya last week, brave men quailed before that most feared creature of folklore, the Woman Who Wears You Down

Curious twinges of sympathy stirred last week, even in those male bosoms not given to sympathising with Libyan government officials. An extraordinary, plaintive telex to the BBC was made public pleading with barely controlled hysteria for the removal of Kate Adie.

She never hesitates in insulting and scolding our representative as if they are her own slaves." Mahmoud al-Busifi, the foreign information administration director, mourns.

"All our attempts to obtain a common and satisfactory solution were gone with wind, because she dictates orders and instructions . . ."

Ms Adie's magnificent disregard of what her hosts see as their "dignity" led him to throw her out. But dear, she wouldn't go: "She refused to hear and she said, 'I won't leave the country before your foreign minister comes and says it to me'." One can see the wringing hands, the shrugs of impotent fury. What has been happening?

Well, two things. On one level, clearly, a doughty professional reporter was standing her ground and defending the principle of free transmission of news. Good for her. But on another, the tone of the telex suggests older and darker forces at work. It is impossible to imagine such things being said of John Simpson, or any other man, however difficult he might make things: "Look at me when I'm talking to you!"

Strong women have always been feared. The word "scold" entered the language in the 13th century, derived from the Old Norse *skold*, meaning a

shaman or perhaps a witch. Medieval laws were enacted to restrain "women who disturb the peace of the neighbourhood by constant scolding", and if laws failed, there was always the Scold's Bridle, with a spiked, padlocked physical curb on the tongue. Talk about an admission of moral defeat: one can imagine the scornful smile of the woman. She knew they were still afraid of her. The 1678 "True Character of a Scold" calls her "animated gunpowder, a walking Mount Etna that is always belching forth flames of sulphur, a real purgatory". Dr Johnson shrank as any Libyan might from "clamorous women", and if he couldn't hold his own, who could?

In the 19th century, the medical profession devoted much energy to the restraint of "the wildest and most recalcitrant female maniacs" in asylums, many of whom were undoubtedly as sane as you or I.

And here's the rub. Modern feminist analysis holds that scolding, shrewishness, nagging and hectoring are the natural and reasonable response of women to their real

weakness in society. If they had power, they would have magnanimity and restraint.

Strong women, even terrifying ones, have always commanded admiration as well as dread: from St Theodosia of Constantinople who in the 7th century found a Roman officer defacing a picture of Christ, abused him roundly and shook the ladder he stood on until he fell off and was killed.

Then she stoned the heretical Patriarch of Constantinople, still "uttering fury", before being killed herself. Or Joan of Arc, not the most restful of people, who bulldozed the Dauphin into doing her will; or all those redoubtable women travellers of the 19th century who never hesitated to let fly at obstructive foreigners or languid diplomats.

To modern feminists they are heroines: at the time, one suspects, those dealing with them would probably echo Mr al-Busifi's words, as he increasingly loses his grip of English in his anxiety to be rid of his tormentor.

Each time she is in Libya

she is causing us more and more trouble . . . we don't appreciate her presence among us, herein we are demanding never ever send Kate Adie to Libya whatever the cost.

One likes to imagine that he turned from this community, wild-eyed, to find smiling grimly at his shoulder, the determined figure of Ms Adie once more. "Look at me while I'm talking to you!"

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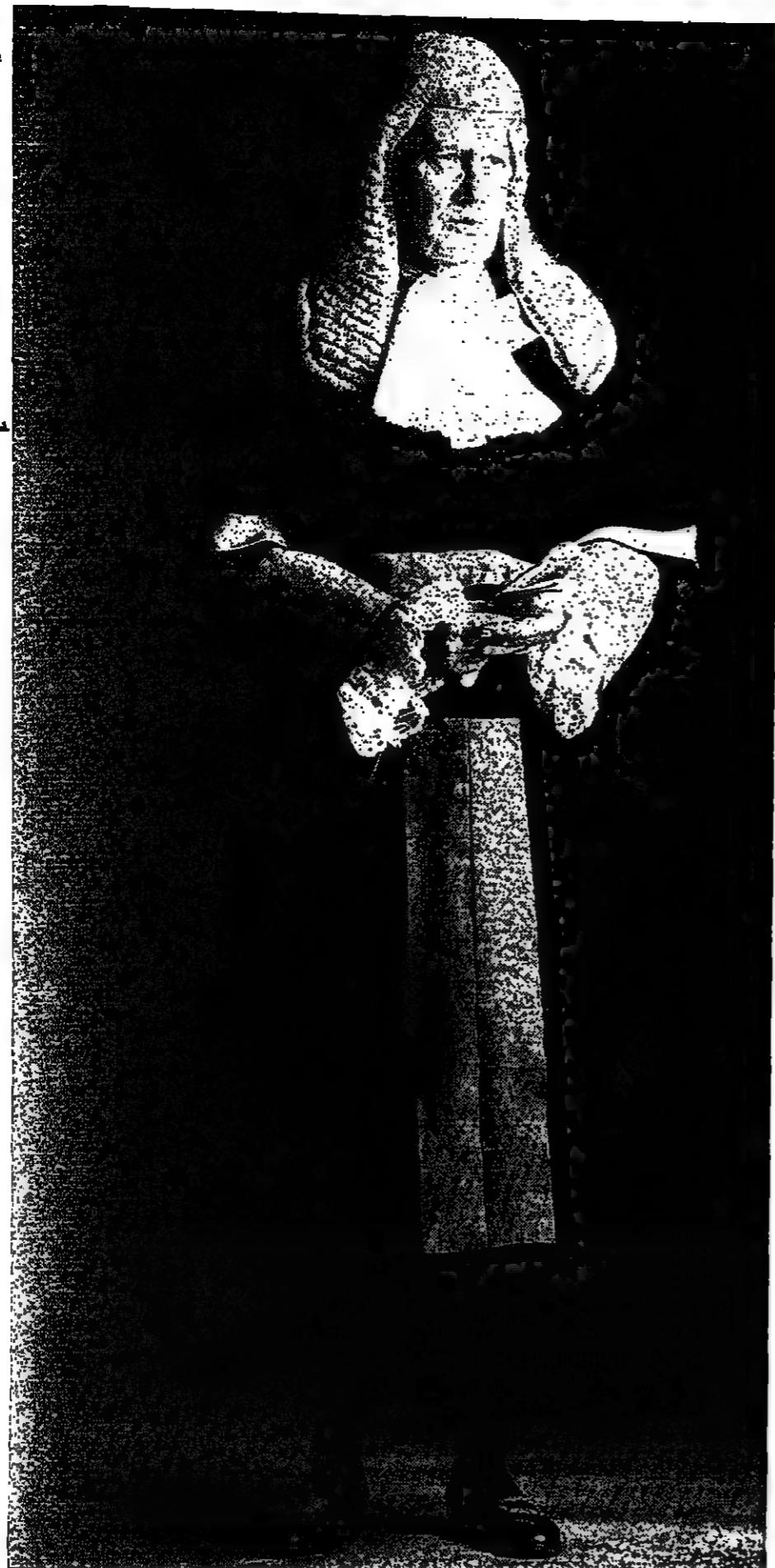
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Kitted out: a circuit court judge, in robe and wig, part of legal dress for over 300 years

A new book brings together artwork of the Third Reich for the first time

Art mixed with atrocity

The phrase Nazi art remains, for many people, a contradiction in terms. So closely do we associate Hitler's Third Reich with atrocities against mankind and nature that to discuss the aesthetic qualities of the official National Socialist paintings, sculpture, design and architecture is seen to be politically incorrect, if not downright shameful. Until recently, indeed, any such judgments would have been almost impossible because so little of the art is on show.

Germany remains embarrassed by this unwanted heritage. The bulk of nearly 10,000 artworks, many of them bearing swastikas and other Nazi insignia, which were taken to the United States after the war and have since been returned, are locked away in a customs office in Munich, no German museum expressing any desire to exhibit them.

However, a documentary maker and author, Peter Adam, has gathered together a comprehensive range of "official" Third Reich art in a new book. We can now see that much of the immense sculpture (largely horses 20 times life-size and invincible Aryan warriors) is simply bad taste on a colossal scale, whereas the paintings — by artists loyal to the Reich, who shared the Führer's contempt for "degenerate art" by such as Otto Dix — tend towards mawkish depictions of farm workers toiling for the Fatherland, caricatures of Jews as fraudsters and endless portraits of Hitler himself in every sort of uniform, even a suit of armour.

The legacy that Germany cannot bury so easily is the architecture of the period, much of which survives. It is monumentalistic — a sort of brutal neo-classicism that is just the sort of thing a military regime intent on taking over the world might be relied upon to produce. But much of it is of a high standard.

Hitler often said it was not destined to be Führer, he would have been an architect. As it was he saw himself as architect of the entire nation, while leaving most of the actual work to a group comprising Albert Speer, Paul

Ludwig Trosig, Hermann Giesler and Fritz Todt. Todt was considered by Hitler, with some justification, as the greatest German architect since the 19th-century neo-classicist Karl Friedrich Schinkel and an enormous influence on the group as a whole.

Hitler's obsession with triumphalist architecture never left him. Even during his last hours in the bunker he would play with models of unrealised dreams.

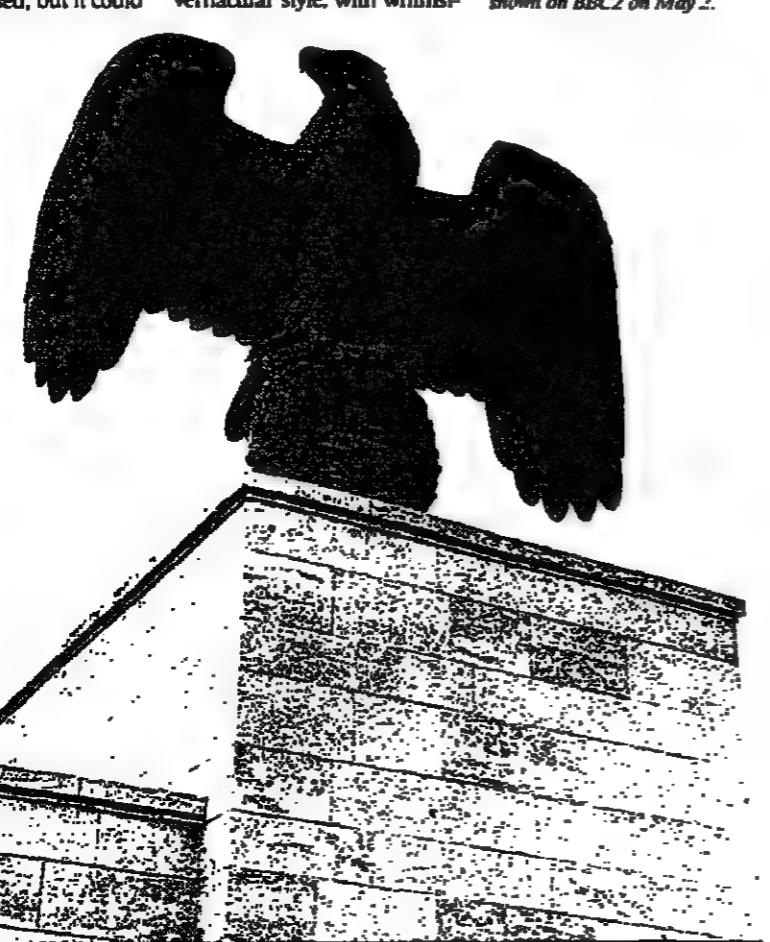
Similarly obsessive was Albert Speer, the most prolific of the group. Speer also designed much of the strong and stylish street furniture — columns, lamposts, torches and brazier — as well as the colonnaded avenues, surmounted by ranks of stylised eagles and hung with tens of thousands of long red banners, each bearing a single black swastika within a white circle.

The swastika remains one of the most aesthetically pleasing logos ever devised, but it could

never now be sanitised or reattributed, despite the fact that it was an ancient symbol of good luck — once used by Rudyard Kipling on the covers of all his books — long before being hijacked by the Nazis.

The inherent strength of the design was carried through in all aspects of graphic art. Most of the posters of the period are superb — light years ahead of the mediocrity of more formal art. Great confidence was displayed in everything from bookbindings to tableware, including the design of the infamous uniforms.

But a parallel form of design was also practised throughout the 1930s and until the end of the war. While monumentalism served well the Führer's desire for urban swagger, something altogether different was deemed suitable for the *volk*. Most housing and party youth hostels were designed in the vernacular style, with whimsical



In full flight: an eagle at a Nuremberg arena symbolises Hitler's triumphalism

Passing sentence on a head of horsehair

Alice Thomson celebrates the threatened craft of making wigs for the legal profession

The legal profession has been sporting wigs for the past 300 years, from the powdered dandies of the Regency law courts to the fussy lawyers of Charles Dickens's *The Old Curiosity Shop* and the clean-cut young barristers of today. But does half a pound of the best horsehair perched on the top of your head give you a psychological advantage? Or is it an absurd anachronism?

Tomorrow the judges of the commercial court, part of the High Court's Chancery division, will vote on whether to consign their tribal headdress to the fancy dress box. If they do, the rest of the High Court might well join them, followed by judges in the criminal courts and thousands of barristers.

For many the disposal of wigs would come as a welcome relief from years of itchy scalps. But for the tiny family businesses that make wigs, tomorrow's decision could be catastrophic.

The wig industry dates back to the late 17th century when King Charles II returned from France to claim his throne. Lawyers followed the fashion he had adopted in exile of wearing wigs. After the turn of the 19th century, when wigs fell from favour, bishops stopped wearing them but the legal profession decided to continue.

Early wig makers tended to be individuals working from small rooms or cellars in the inns of court but one company soon established itself and still dominates the wig world, that of Ede and Ravenscroft. Thomas Ravenscroft founded his wig-making business in 1726 when the wearing of wigs was the height of fashion.

The old legal wigs were made of black horsehair that constantly needed frizzing and curling. Maintaining them was a daily task, involving treating them with pomatum, a scented ointment, and then liberally powdering.

In 1822, Humphrey Ravenscroft, grandson of the founder, made the biggest breakthrough in the wig world: he invented the forensic wig, which is still used today. The forensic wig is made of white horsehair with curls that do not uncurl. It needs no powder, no attention, and keeps its fresh smell.

There are three types of forensic legal wig. The first and grandest is the full-bottomed wig which cascades down the shoulders in tight curls, has two ties of horsehair at the back and is used for ceremonies by judges, the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker of the House of Commons. Then there is the bench wig, which is short and gently frizzed all over, and the bar wig, which is worn by barristers.

Being fitted for a wig is a traditional event for the new barrister and most still find themselves going to Ede and

Ravenscroft in Chancery Lane. Inside the mahogany-panelled shop there are showcases containing momentos such as Lord Erskine's wig. For 200 years barristers have been invited to sign a book when they receive their wig and again if they are made a judge, and the names of Robert Peel, Quentin Hogg and Airey Neave can be found.

William Keen, the managing director, explains the process that still continues in the back rooms of the shop: "Pure horsehair for the wig comes from countries all over the world. It is first treated for anthrax and then cleaned and bleached and a few dark hairs are added. Everything is done by hand. The style is laid down and we don't change it." The wigs are only made to order at a cost of about £350 and, unless they are treated very badly, they should last two or three lifetimes. "One shudders to say what they would have to do but I suppose if

they have had an appalling day, they might kill their wig off," Mr Keen says.

He recommends the wigs be cleaned regularly, depending on how greasy the hair is, but many barristers prefer to wear unkempt wigs as a testimony to their years of service. Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, was renowned for the shambolic state of his head of curly hair.

The company makes about 900 wigs a year. Three hundred of these are exported to Commonwealth countries. Legal wigs have disappeared in India, Canada, the West Indies and are not obligatory in Ghana but are still worn in many African states, parts of the Far East and Australasia.

If legal wigs do fall from favour Ede and Ravenscroft will survive as it did when the clergy stopped wearing them in the last century. "Our robe-making for royalty, peers, High Court judges, Lord Mayors and knights provide the

large bulk of our work and making wigs is a very costly process. It is just a pity to see the tradition die out," Mr Keen says.

The impetus for dewigging the legal profession has come from Anthony Colman, QC, who is chairman of the Commercial Bar Association, but it reflects a decision taken by the whole committee. "We reckon the time has come when the wearing of wigs is no longer desirable. If there is any need to distinguish between our clients and us, it can easily be done with gowns. Wigs just make us appear pompous and out-of-date," says Mr Colman.

The new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Taylor, has gone on record as being anti-wig. "Judges at a stroke could disarm a good deal of public misunderstanding of the legal profession if we stopped wearing wigs and gowns in court," he said in a recent interview. He prefers something like the American approach, formal suits with scarlet and ermine reserved for ceremonial occasions.

Other members of the anti-wig brigade point to areas of the law where wigs have already been discarded with no miscarriages of justice. Informal dress is worn in the matrimonial courts, where wigs are thought inappropriate to sensitive issues such as divorce. The law lords, who sit in the highest court in the land, wear ordinary business suits.

Many female barristers also resent having to wear them. Caroline Addy, a pupil barrister and a member of the Inner Temple, says: "I think they are a horrendous expense when you start out. I don't think they are necessary and I find them hard to keep on. There is an awful amount of fiddling with hair clips and the men are always worrying they will make them go bald." She feels that barristers should have enough gravitas without having to resort to fancy dress.

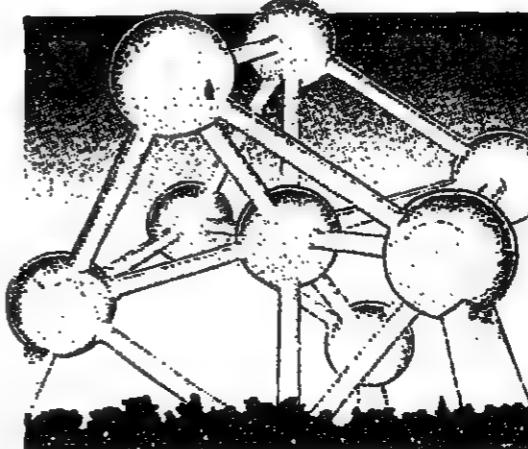
Monique Allen, a barrister at the commercial bar, disagrees: "Wigs are a very good way of distinguishing barristers. It shows a dividing line between their role as servants of the court and their everyday role. Police, firemen, and nurses all have uniforms."

Marc Rowlands, a commercial barrister, says: "Sometimes I have to say dreadful things to people and it is easier to say them in a wig."

Correction

The late Captain Woolf Barnato, described as a flying ace ("Just a little Lutysen", April 20), was in fact a champion racing driver.

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There is nothing illusory to the lowness of the place, but at closer quarters the allegory fades, and something soft, something pallid seems to muffle the excitement. Whenever I come here — more so every time — San Francisco strikes me as being at once the most heart-wrenchingly beautiful and the most tantalising of all the great cities of the world.

Ah, but is it a great city?

Certainly the streets look properly metropolitan — boulevards lined with banks, post stores and hotels where Shastras stay, neighbourhoods authentically equipped with ethnic eateries and adult bookstores. But the buildings themselves, however imposing, strike me as temporary of feel, buildings without foundations, buildings not made to last. In some obscure and perhaps seismically related way,

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San Francisco: at once the most beautiful and most tantalising of all the great cities

Laid-back and lovable

San Francisco, after 30 years of intermittent visits, never fails to exalt me. *Jan Morris* writes — so full of hope does the city look, so incomparably felicitous on its hills above the sea, like the city of all desires in the closing pages of an allegory. All the more puzzling then that when I actually enter the streets of San Francisco, this time, as always, I find my responses peculiarly ambivalent. The vision lets me down.

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San Francisco feels too flimsy to be a metropolis.

Besides, where have all the people gone? Half the city seems uninhabited, as if some impending new catastrophe has emptied it of its residents, leaving only disposable strangers to be swallowed up or incinerated. Even in Union Square on a Saturday evening, about the loudest noise is the clanking of the cable car cables in their grooves. Even Broadway at midnight is hardly jam-packed. Even the financial quarter at high noon seems eminently chatable, strollable and ready for lunch.

Like city people everywhere, San Franciscans love to boast of their

traffic problems and crime rates, but to a visitor the pressures of this city seem, if not actually small-town, at least decidedly provincial.

The colours of San Francisco are gentle pastels, not the golds and crimson of consequence. The light is a washed sea light, filtered always, one feels, through early morning mists. Even the local ocean never seems to me a proper whale-hog, titanic ocean, but is more like a vast Great Lake, so that surveying its surf-fringed rocks from the heights above, I often catch myself wondering if it really is salt water down there.

They call all this laid-back, and so it is. For my tastes, however, it is kind of aesthetic betrayal. The city of my dreams, that half-imaginary shining city of the Sonoma road, is anything but laid-back, but blazes always with fires of aspiration. Think of Rio, or Sydney, or Hong Kong, or Manhattan — all cities of glorious visual impact too, but cities as thrilling at intermission as they are when the curtain goes up.

Of all the supremely handsome cities I know, only San Francisco greets you, after the dazzle of its first impression, not with urge, but with relaxation.

• Extracted from an article in *The Times* Saturday Review

There is nothing illusory to the lowness of the place, but at closer quarters the allegory fades, and something soft, something pallid seems to muffle the excitement. Whenever I come here — more so every time — San Francisco strikes me as being at once the most heart-wrenchingly beautiful and the most tantalising of all the great cities of the world.

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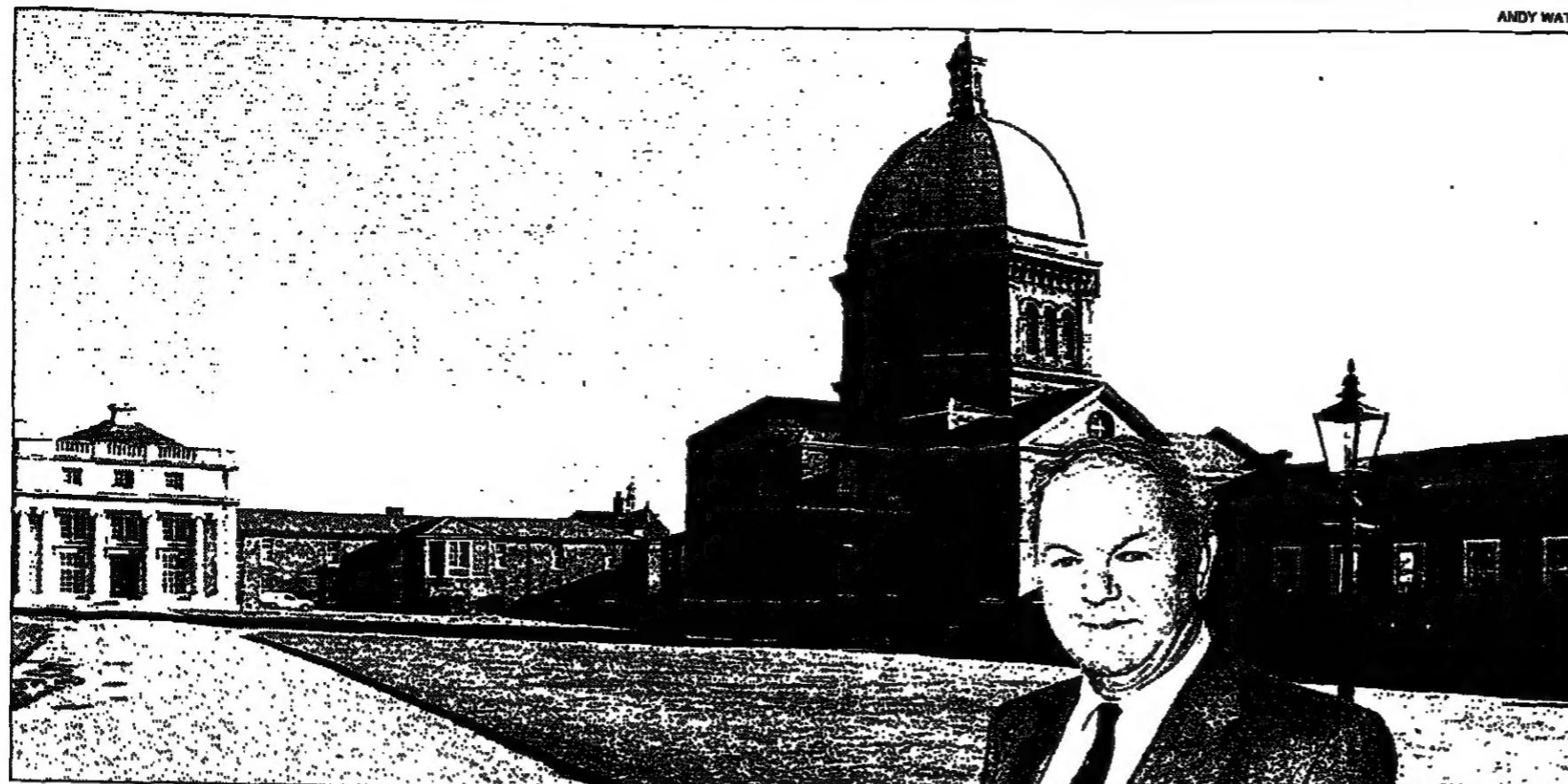
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A tough lesson in economics: David Jewell, the Master of Haileybury, has "lost" 37 boarders in the past three years, although he remains confident about the future

A very private misery

Britain's independent schools have hit hard times. After more than a decade of growth, the boom is at an end. Fee-paying schools are blaming the recession for a spate of redundancies, cutbacks and even closures, as pupils stay away.

A report out tomorrow will confirm that parents are less able to afford the cost of a private education. The annual official census of independent school rolls is expected to show that for the first time in 13 years the number of pupils in private schools has dropped.

The statistics will come as a shock to public school heads used to seeing independent school rolls steadily growing. The question now is whether the downturn is simply a recessionary blip or the start of a long-term trend.

The annual census by ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service, is one of the high points of the independent schools' calendar. Until now it has been a moment for self-congratulation. Since 1979, independent schools' share of the "market" has grown from 5.7 per cent to 7.4 per cent, reaching a record 608,000 pupils in 1991.

This year's figures are expected to show a slight overall downturn. Boarding schools, which have been in a slow decline for years, have

shown a particularly steep fall-off in attendance. The numbers going to day-schools has levelled off.

The most famous public schools have so far been able to ride out the recession, although applications are down. Even so, some are being forced to make economies. Last year Ampleforth, the leading Catholic boarding school, made five teachers redundant.

All types of schools are suffering. Haileybury, the Hertfordshire school, has decided not to replace four teachers and is digging deep into its investments to help parents struggling to meet school fees. One third of its pupils are receiving some financial help from bursaries.

But the smaller, less exclusive private schools, rural boarding schools and girls' schools that are most vulnerable to the recession. Most are finding it harder to attract pupils and cutting back on staff. Last year ten independent schools gave up the struggle and closed.

Wroxall Abbey School, a girls' day and boarding school near Leamington Spa, is typical. Its head, Miss Dianice Iles, says its problems are shared by most schools of the same size. Applications are down and staff hours and subject options are likely to be reduced next year as a result.

"Put it this way — we are not staffing quite so luxuriously as one

has in the past," Miss Iles says. Some options at the 160-girl school may be reduced from three to two in a year, there will be classes of nine instead of six, and part-time teachers will be given smaller rota.

Raising fees is not an answer. "We want to make life as easy as possible for the parents," Miss Iles says. She says the school has had to be "very sensible" in housekeeping and look carefully at budgets. "We are relatively fortunate — I'm reasonably confident we will be all right in September," she says.

The story is the same at many other schools. "There will be some slimming down in independent schools next year," says Miss Elizabeth Diggory, the president of the Girls' School Association.

Nowhere has the fall-off been more keenly felt than at Gabbitas, Truman, Thring, the independent

education and school fees advisers. Enquiries from parents were down by a quarter last year; the low point was in August.

John Murrell, the managing director, says: "I know of many great and famous public schools which are managing to get along by drawing on their reserves."

The world-famous school teachers remain bullish about the future. They believe that tomorrow's census figures represent a blip, and that once the recession is over parents will return to the private sector.

The rolls for September are already full at Haileybury, although it remains to be seen if some parents may be forced to withdraw their children later.

"Independent schools have always had a generous staff-pupil ratio and in the recession they have been taking up the slack like any other business," says Father Dominic Milroy, of Ampleforth. "I'll be very surprised if admissions go on failing when the economy recovers."

Vivian Anthony, the secretary of the Head Masters' Conference of 235 top public schools, says: "If any business were to report the kind of downturn we have suffered, they'd be absolutely delighted to get off so lightly. We have survived remarkably well." Smaller schools, rather less generously endowed, may not share his optimism.

about 2 per cent a year — because parents could not afford the fees. "I'm absolutely sure the main reason is the recession. I had a letter this morning from a parent withdrawing a child. It has certainly gone on the increase."

Nevertheless, public-school head teachers remain bullish about the future. They believe that tomorrow's census figures represent a blip, and that once the recession is over parents will return to the private sector.

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Want to be a governor?

As disillusioned school governors quit in droves, a campaign to fill the seats begins

A campaign to attract thousands of new school governors is to be launched by the government tomorrow, because it is so concerned that many existing governors will not seek re-election at the end of their first four-year term of office this autumn.

Ann Holt, the former director of Action for Governors' Information and Training (Agit), who has joined the education department to run the campaign, estimates that 100,000 new governors, out of 320,000, will be required to serve in the 25,000 state schools in England and Wales. Of the newcomers, 80,000 will be required in England and the rest in Wales.

Some areas will face more difficulties, but new governors will be needed in every local authority. The London borough of Bromley, which prides itself on the amount of support and training it gives governors, estimates that it will need about 400 new governors to keep its total strength at about 1,300.

Governing bodies are made up of parents and teachers, who are elected, local-authority nominees and co-opted governors, who are intended to represent the local community. The national Schools Need Governors campaign will include a national governors' week in June and schools will be invited to enter a competition, entitled Making Governors Visible, designed to encourage more people to serve.

Some doubts are already being expressed as to whether enough people will be attracted from outside education. Susan Cornish, who is responsible for governor training in Bromley, says that local governors have decided not to part in the competition but to mount their own local initiative in an attempt to attract a wider audience.



Back to school? A poster plea for new governors

"Governors believed that we should be appealing to people in the high street rather than to the captive audience in their own schools," she says. "Parent governors are an important part of the governing body, but they are not the only part."

Since the appointment of the new-style governing bodies four years ago, some governors have already resigned because of the amount of time they have been asked to devote to their schools. They have been replaced with new members whose four-year term of office started from their appointment, so it is estimated that about 70 per cent of all local-authority school governors will have to resign in the autumn. The problem is that nobody is sure how many will be willing to stand for re-election or be prepared to be re-appointed.

Well-trained and committed governors are an essential plank of the government's education reform which, under Local Management of Schools, passes the day-to-day

running of all local-authority schools to heads and governors.

A group of northern local authorities was so concerned by the number of resignations that it carried out a survey of 594 governors lost in the first six months of last year. Of the 301 who replied, 68 per cent said they had done so for personal reasons, such as leaving the area, changing jobs or through ill-health, some of which may have been caused by their work as governors. One in three said they had resigned because of the post's difficulties.

The research showed that Durham, with 4,700 governors, could expect to lose 422 every year. The seven local authorities covered in the survey could expect to lose a total of 1,577 every year. If projected nationally, the annual loss would be 26,100.

The survey showed that many of the resignations were due to the amount of time taken up by governing duties, but that an equal number were caused by factors such as

frustration over poorly conducted meetings, the feeling that governors had only a minor effect on the way the schools worked and the apathy of fellow governors.

There are even greater pressures on governors of grant-maintained schools, who are likely to increase in number if most secondary schools opt out of local-authority control, as the government wishes.

Head teachers are concerned not only about the number of suitably-qualified people volunteering to serve as governors: they also think clearer guidance should be given on the division of power between governors and heads. At Stratford grant-maintained school in east London, for example, governors have been in conflict with the head over the day-to-day running of the school.

David Hart, secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, says that governors of all schools have considerable management powers and that John Patten, the education secretary, should introduce legislation as soon as possible to create a sensible balance between the policy-making role of the governors and the management role of the head.

"The Education Reform Act failed to cope with a central dilemma," Mr Hart says. "Governors are happy to exercise power, but will not take responsibility for the consequences. Heads are more than willing to have the responsibility but do not have the power to underpin it unless the governors choose to delegate their power."

Mr Hart proposes that the head should be established as chief executive, with overall responsibility for the management of the school while being personally accountable to the governors. Governors, he says, should keep out of the detailed management of the school as far as possible.

Meanwhile, Mrs Holt is confident that sufficient new governors will be found. "Ordinary people do make good governors. Common sense and taking an interest are as important as paperwork or understanding the budget process."

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